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A fresh colour palette and Scandi-style decorations create a welcoming and festive look in this Nebraskan home (see page 18).



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# WELCOME

A new year is approaching and all we have between now and the beginning of 2016 is the festive period. Once my son's birthday has passed, on 14 December, I really start to get into the swing of it, from the office Christmas party – Secret Santa present still to be bought – to Christmas Eve in the village with carol singing. I'm not one to rush off to the shops on Boxing Day as it's my ideal time to sit and do as little as possible, and eat as many turkey sandwiches as I can manage. Then New Year's Eve will come with a bang! I'm slightly dreading the thought that the children will be needing a taxi service – a definite downside of living in the country when it comes to party time. We will then be in 2016, back to work on the 4th with the whole year ahead of us. For those of you who are planning to move home during the year, I wish you all the best with your search. When it gets tough, as these things inevitably do, try to keep in mind the excitement that will come when you start the process of turning your new house into a home. Don't forget we'll be here every month with the stories behind the beautiful homes featured, providing you with inspiration for your own project. And when you've finished, we'd love to see the result. Whatever your plans for 2016, either big or small, I want to wish you all the very best.

*Deborah*

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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## COMING NEXT MONTH - ON SALE 2 JANUARY



### SPLASHING OUT

Fresh life has been breathed into this colourful converted water mill in West Sussex



### POTS OF STYLE

Lovingly crafted by a ceramicist, an abandoned building is now full of industrial flair



### IN THE NAVY

A crisp blue-and-white scheme lends a New England vibe to a cool coastal villa



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# JANUARY

TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS



1 2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

## COOL MODERN

Take pleasure in presenting these smart, stylish buys to the design fans among your family and friends

COMPILED BY ERICA MILLER

**1 LEADING LIGHT**  
Rascal table lamp, £85, Fishpools  
**2 CUTE CRITTER**  
Billy the Cat wash bag, £14, Not Before Tea  
**3 HIGH SPIRITS**  
Whisky Arran decanter with

walnut base, £85, LSA International  
**4 WRITE ON...**  
Ingenuity ink pen in white/gold, £153, Parker  
**5 ROSE TINTED**  
Barista & Co copper eight-cup cafetière, £44, Lakeland

**6 NEW SHOOTS**  
Plantini mini planthouse metal flat-pack kit, £25, another-studio.com  
**7 LEND A HAND**  
Bronze palm dish, £295, Luxdeco  
**8 GLOBAL APPEAL**  
Armillary decorative sphere,

£30, Marks & Spencer  
**9 TREASURE TROVE**  
Green jewellery box, £140, Nina Campbell  
**10 COOL CURVES**  
Tom Dixon plum glass & copper ice bucket, £200, John Lewis



## FABULOUS FUN

Enjoy the gift of giving this Christmas with our selection of quirky and colourful presents to make everyone happy

### 1 RETHINK PINK

Ascaso Strawberry dream versatile coffee machine, £500, Debenhams

### 2 SWEET TREATS

Il Massimo hamper, £65, Carluccio's

### 3 STELLAR SAVING

Robot money box, £12, Debenhams

### 4 EYESPY

Polaroid Cube HD action camera, £79, Currys

### 5 ROLL WITH IT

Superball storage container in turquoise powder-coated steel, £55, Wesco

### 6 INTO THE GROOVE

Crosley Cruiser turntable, £90, Amazon

### 7 PAST, PRESENT, PERFECT

Record player tin, £25, The Contemporary Home

### 8 POWER PLAY

Retro racing car, £39, Halfords

### 9 ON SONG

Pure Pop Midi DAB radio, £90, John Lewis

### 10 SPOIL YOURSELF

Pomegranate, argan and grapeseed fragrance trio, £36, Crabtree & Evelyn

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# Q&A

Our resident interiors expert Rachel Leedham is on hand to answer all your decorating queries

## FAUX-PINE GARLAND

**This Christmas, I would like to invest in a good-quality faux-pine garland, and I wonder if you can recommend any that have a particularly realistic look?**  
**TANYA HOLLINGSWORTH, BRIGHTON**

I'm a big fan of a garland, as you can do so much with one, from decorating the mantelpiece, embellishing a staircase or front door, or running them along a console table as a decoration, as nicely illustrated with this lovely version, pictured, by Rockett St George (01444 253391, rockettstgeorge.co.uk), measuring 190cm and costing £24. John Lewis (03456 049049, johnlewis.com) has a few different options, the most luxurious – and realistic – being its Fern and Pine Cone garland, 180cm, £45.



## JENNY LIND-STYLE BED

**My daughter is moving out of her cot into a single bed and I have fallen in love with Jenny Lind-style beds, but they only seem to be available in the US. Can you help?**  
**JO WILDEN, BY EMAIL**

This style of bed, named after the Swedish opera singer who performed in the 1800s, features an eye-catching wooden frame defined by turned spindle posts. I've spoken

to some US suppliers, but I haven't been able to find a company that offers shipping to the UK. Feather & Black (01243 380600, featherandblack.com) sells a similar-shaped bedstead in metal called Oliver (shown), which comes in bronze, white or duck egg, H129 x W102 x L204cm, £275. Or try the Betsy Victorian hospital-style bed frame in white, H120 x W101 x L201cm, £160, from Homebase (0345 077 8888, homebase.co.uk).

## OVERSIZED PRINT

**Could you let me know where Annie Campbell found the beautiful brick-coloured fabric that has been used for the Roman blind in her kitchen (p41, October 2015)?**  
**PAULINE PHILLIPS, BY EMAIL**

Annie told us that she purchased the fabric a few years ago, and that unfortunately it was just about to be discontinued. For prints on a similar scale, you may like to have a look at Springtime in Ruby (left) by Michael Szell, linen, £95m, Christopher Farr Cloth (020 7349 0888, christopherfarrcloth.com) or Sansome in Red (right), linen mix, £84, Thibaut (020 7351 6496, thibautdesign.com).



### ANTLER WALL LIGHT

**I'd like to source two wall lights to go either side of my fireplace, and a few years ago I spotted a design featuring antlers. Have you come across anything like this?**  
**CELIA RIPPEN, LEEDS**

We seem to be on a Scottish theme this month – perhaps because it's the season to hunker down and bring lots of warmth into the

home! Next (0333 777 8939, [next.co.uk](http://next.co.uk)) stocks a very well-priced two-light Antler wall light (shown), H27 x W36 x D15cm, £40. David Hunt Lighting (01295 672200, [davidhunt-lighting.com](http://davidhunt-lighting.com)) has a few offerings, from a small wall light to a dramatic design with a left- and right-hand version that may look striking flanking your fireplace, H43 x W40 x D32cm, £138 each.



### TARTAN THROW

**I love the colour scheme in Lesley Bailie's sitting room (p70, October 2015) and I'd like to know if you could tell me where she found her checked wool throw?**  
**FIONA SINCLAIR, BERWICK-UPON TWEED**

A tartan throw lends a timeless touch and can be used to pull together the different hues in a scheme. Bronte by Moon (01943 873181, [brontebymoon.co.uk](http://brontebymoon.co.uk)) offers a Shetland range of wool throws that includes a comparable design called Skye Check in Mulberry, 200 x 140cm, £75. Knockando

Woolmill's (01340 810345, [knockandowoolmill.co.uk](http://knockandowoolmill.co.uk)) lambswool tartan throw also features similar dark red and green tones, 175 x 150cm, £110. Another option, this time with pink, purple and green tones, is the cotton/wool Cairngorm throw, shown, by Anta (01862 832477, [anta.co.uk](http://anta.co.uk)).

### PAINTED SIDEBOARD

**Where can I find the two-drawer, two-cupboard dresser pictured in Veronica Rodriguez and Darren Jones's kitchen-diner (p64, October 2015)?**  
**JOAN MALLANAPHY, STOCKPORT**

Veronica bought the cabinet in an antiques shop in south London and painted it grey, but I can suggest alternative options. Houseology (0141 280 4533, [houseology.com](http://houseology.com)) sells a slim OH Maison Provence two-door sideboard in French grey, H100 x W110 x D36cm, £394. The Estrella sideboard (shown) by Sweetpea & Willow (0345 257 2627, [sweetpeaandwillow.com](http://sweetpeaandwillow.com)) emulates country pieces from Avignon and comes in a hand-painted grey distressed finish, H104 x W94 x D28cm, £690. Laura Ashley's (03332 008009, [lauraashley.com](http://lauraashley.com)) Bramley sideboard features a distressed finish in cream or subtle blue, H103 x W106 x D44cm, £875. And Maisons du Monde (0808 234 2172, [maisonsdumonde.com](http://maisonsdumonde.com)) has the Paulownia design in white, H87 x W86 x D40cm, £199.



### GET IN TOUCH

**EMAIL RACHEL LEEDHAM at**

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Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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# DECK THE HALLS

*Scandi style meets shabby chic flair in Anna Eickholt's home, which is decorated with all the trimmings for the festive season*

FEATURE JANE BOWLES | PHOTOGRAPHY JENNY BRANDT/LIVING4MEDIA

**DESIGN TIP** *'Take time figuring out exactly how you want your home to look according to your taste – that way, the finished result will be your own unique style'*



#### SITTING ROOM

The Nutcracker figures on the mantelpiece are traditional American Christmas decorations, which Anna repainted in white.

For similar sofa fabric try Romo's Paisley in Elephant or Mercury, £116m. Rhapsody rug in Ivory, from £99, John Lewis, would work well here. Oka's Bellano crystal table lamp, £220, is a good match. Castello honey oak wood flooring, £49sq m, Quick-Step, has this look

## DISTINCTIVE



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Detached house, built in 1932

### LOCATION

Nebraska, USA

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, TV room, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2010

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before here, we lived in a country farmhouse close by,' says Anna.





#### DINING ROOM

This formal space is the perfect setting for Christmas dinner. Brights of Nettlebed sells reproduction antique furniture with a similar look, try its Chippendale-style dining chairs, from £315 each. The Chandelier & Mirror Company's Blanche chandelier, £375, is comparable

Our road is nicknamed Christmas Street,' says Anna Eickholt of her hometown in Nebraska, USA. 'Here, everyone decorates their house and garden, and people drive by just to look. I put my lights and garlands up after Thanksgiving at the end of November. It's a great way to get in the festive mood.'

Swedish-born Anna makes a lot of her own decorations, and reveals that she's a diehard DIY aficionado. 'I've been watching renovation programmes on TV for as long as I can remember,' she says. Indeed, it was her passion for home improvements that led Anna and her husband Spike to buy their present house. 'We lived in a farmhouse that we'd completely restored, but wanted to move back to the city,' says Anna. 'We asked a local estate agent to keep a look-out for places we could revamp. Soon afterwards, a house came up for sale in the exact neighbourhood where we wanted to buy.'

The property was in a poor state of repair, but the agent knew Anna personally and thought it might interest her and her family, including son Henry, now 8. 'Fortunately I could see past the flaws and spotted its huge potential,' says Anna. 'We fell in love with it the moment we stepped inside, and bought it before it was even listed on the market.'

Despite the fact that Anna and Spike already had several years' renovation experience, this was not a project for the faint-hearted. 'Everything you could possibly think of needed

#### KITCHEN

'We completely renovated this room and I designed the layout,' says Anna.

Ikea Metod Grytnäs cabinets, from £2,250 for a standard kitchen. Original Style's antique mirrored metro tiles, £229sq m, would work well here





#### HALL

Striking black and white photography creates visual interest on the stairway. Walls painted in Tallow modern emulsion, £42 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Ikea has a good selection of picture frames, from £2 each



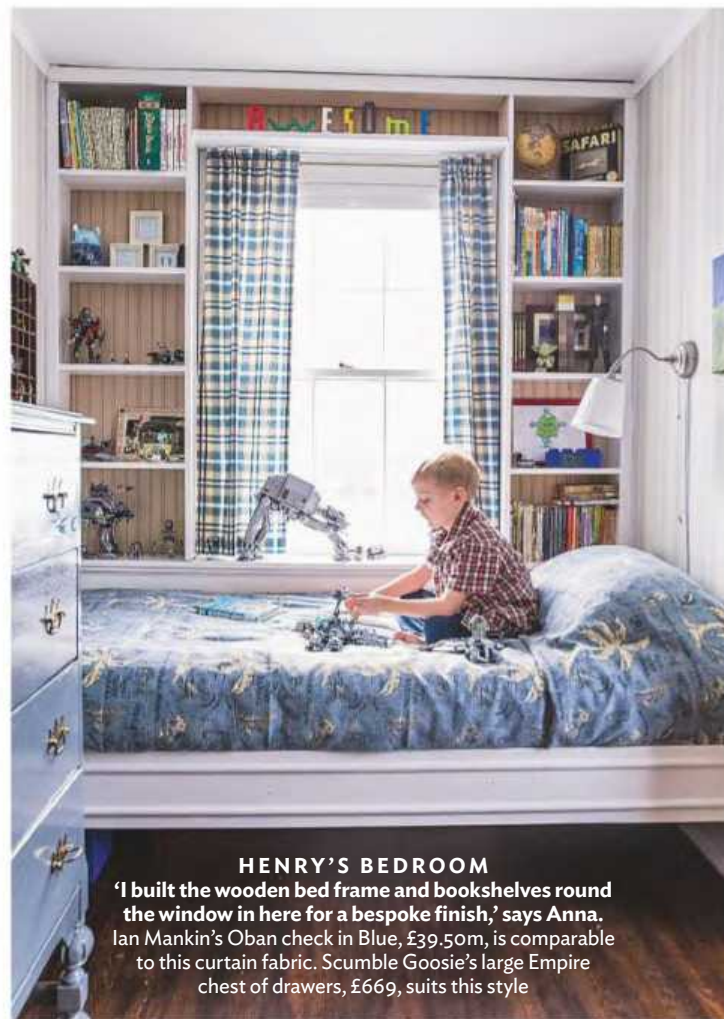
#### TV ROOM

'I love curling up on the sofa in here with a good book on winter evenings,' says Anna. The Rugseller's Artisan rug, from £154, is an alternative. Ektorp sofa, £275; armchair, £185; footstool, £75, all Ikea. Blue Ashes matt emulsion, £35.50 per 2.5 litres, Fired Earth



#### HALL

A simple stripe stair carpet is ideal for adding formal elegance. Roger Oates's Denby Ground stair runner in Smoke is a match, £118lin m



#### HENRY'S BEDROOM

'I built the wooden bed frame and bookshelves round the window in here for a bespoke finish,' says Anna. Ian Mankin's Oban check in Blue, £39.50m, is comparable to this curtain fabric. Scumble Goose's large Empire chest of drawers, £669, suits this style

doing,' says Anna. 'We stripped out the kitchen and removed acres of patterned wallpaper from every single room, plus we replastered many of the walls and ceilings. On top of this, all the woodwork needed stripping, sanding and painting.'

Anna worked on the house full time and took on a lot of the restoration herself. 'My mother was a great source of inspiration as she was always sewing curtains or painting furniture for our home while I was growing up,' she reflects. 'There's so much information online nowadays, you can teach yourself to do anything.' For the decor, Anna drew on her Scandinavian roots for ideas. 'One of the things I love about this place is that it's always filled with light thanks to its many windows, so I chose pale Nordic blues, greys and white to accentuate this.' Using the same colours throughout has created a visual continuity that's echoed in Anna's choice of shabby-chic furniture. 'Most was found at thrift stores and flea markets and I upcycled a lot of it myself.'

The couple have a similar hands-on approach to the festive season and Anna makes a lot of her own decorations. 'I craft new wreaths and trimmings every year, but my favourites are the lit garlands, which I made when we moved here,' she says. 'I also painted the front door bright red to match.'

At Christmas time, the family maintain the Swedish traditions that Anna grew up with. 'We have a traditional dinner on Christmas Eve with Swedish ham, meatballs, gravadlax and pickled herring, and my sister and her family fly over to join us,' says Anna. 'As night falls, everybody in our street lights candles outside – it's a truly magical sight.'

#### MASTER BEDROOM

This dressing area space has been given a feminine feel with comfortable seating and floral fabrics.

Eau de Nil absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Laurent chaise longue, £1,005, Sweetpea & Willow, would work well in this scheme



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 142

# Insight

## EXTERNAL LIGHTING

*Introduce a warm glow to the outside of your home with clever lighting, just like the Eickholts*

At this time of year, it's vital to have good lighting on the outside as well as the inside of your house. A considered scheme will guide visitors safely to your door, as well as highlighting your property's most attractive features.

Not so long ago, choices were limited when it came to lighting a home's exterior: the glare of a high-wattage security light or a simple porch lantern were among the few options on offer. But gone are the days of decorative versus practical lighting. Nowadays, stylish and security-conscious designs combine to create a welcoming exterior on dark winter days.

### A range of options

Flexibility is key – having more than one circuit means you can introduce layered illumination to your exterior, which is a subtle way to light an entrance instead of relying on one source. As well as fixed wall lights flanking a doorway or a decorative lantern on a dimmer switch, adding soft LEDs within planting in a garden and either side of steps will look welcoming and show the way to your door. Put the lights on a motion sensor so they turn on as people approach – but be careful where you place the sensor so that it isn't triggered by wildlife.

Fitting additional electrical circuits retrospectively can be a messy job, but there are less impactful ways to add exterior lighting. Garden designer Dan Bowyer of Fisher Tomlin & Bowyer, uses

wireless technology in the majority of his schemes using WiseBox, a multi-channel remote that takes electricians into the garden (up to around 100m away) from anywhere in the house without having to run wires back to the switch. Instead, external cables lead from the device to the exterior light fittings, avoiding the need to chase wires through walls.

### Creating an ambience

Remember that lighting can also be decorative and fun, whether you add frost-proof candlelit hurricane lamps either side of your door, or simple but chic paper lanterns, just as Anna and Spike Eickholt have done. Lighting up planting and trees offers a sight of the garden from inside, taking the view beyond the blackness of curtainless windows so it can be enjoyed, even on winter days.

Thinking of your garden as an exterior room will help you achieve the right atmosphere. At the front of your home, highlighting key features such as pillars or door architraves with small ground recessed uplights creates a dramatic framing effect. In the back garden, lighting trees, sculptures or plants like acers, box balls and olive trees will draw the eye outwards and increase the sense of space to your home's interior, too. At this time of year, opt for some extra magic with hanging candle lanterns suspended from branches and a simple string of battery-operated fairy lights entwined around a pair of tall potted plants for a festive effect.



## PROFESSIONAL ADVICE



**'During the colder months, lighting can take on a more sculptural look, so use it to highlight trees, branches and interesting shapes. It's an ideal opportunity to draw**

**attention to your garden's good features.**

Whether lighting the front or back of your property, take the lead from the features that are the most attractive. For instance, the front garden will need a well-lit path and door, while the back benefits from good lighting for a sitting area, as well as feature lighting. If possible, put them on different switches so you can choose which ones you want on.

**Consider LEDs, which are now used throughout the home and garden. As technology has advanced, their colour and power has improved, so even very large trees can be lit with them. Integral LEDs need a driver, housed in the garden.**

Spike lights are useful for moving the light around as planting grows and for adding to the scheme as your garden develops.

**Remember that with lighting, less is more. Too much can glare and flatten out the space, so make sure you exercise restraint.'**

SALLY STEPHENSON, OWL LIGHTING

## ADDRESS BOOK

### ■ John Cullen Lighting

020 7371 5400, [johncullenlighting.co.uk](http://johncullenlighting.co.uk)

Specialist internal and external lighting solutions, plus a design and advice service

### ■ Owl Lighting

01962 738689, [owl-lighting.co.uk](http://owl-lighting.co.uk)

A comprehensive lighting design service

### ■ Skogsberg & Smart [skogsbergsmart.com](http://skogsbergsmart.com)

A UK-based Swedish company offering hand-blown hurricane lamps, suitable for outdoors

### ■ The Garden Lighting Shop

01773 541003, [thegardenlightingshop.co.uk](http://thegardenlightingshop.co.uk)

Outdoor lights by European and international designers, such as Nordlux and Techmar



**EXPERT EYE** *'The latest trend is to create a restrained, more considered scheme. Instead of glaring mains lights or feeble solar types that don't work well in winter, there are decorative pieces that are still bright enough to be a security measure'*

CHARLES EDWARDS, [CHARLESEDWARDS.COM](http://CHARLESEDWARDS.COM)

## 1 HALL

'I've had this gilt mirror for 20 years now,' says Annelie. 'It was the first thing I ever bought at auction.'

Shelvock mirror, £175, from The Chandelier & Mirror Company, is comparable. Antiques Atlas is a great place to source vintage half-moon console tables



# OUT OF ASIA

Annelie Stålnert drew on her years living in Beijing to add an Oriental flavour to her Swedish home

FEATURE ALIX O'NEILL  
PHOTOGRAPHY CECILIA MÖLLER



## 2

## 2 HALL

A crackling fire offers guests a warm welcome.

The Gothic arched fire guard, £47, Smart Store; and vintage brass candleholders, £20 for a set of five, Etsy, would work here





#### SITTING ROOM

A white backdrop keeps things modern. Ektorp three-seat sofa, £275, Ikea. Little Greene's China Rose wallpaper in Emerald, £66.50 per roll, is similar to this one. The Chinese carved coffee table, £241, Wayfair, is an alternative option

#### DISTINCTIVE



#### HOME TRUTHS

##### THE PROPERTY

1920s detached house

##### LOCATION

Near Västerlösa, Sweden

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner, family room, study, three bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 1998

##### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a flat nearby before buying this house, says Annelie.



## 1 KITCHEN

**Metallic finishes inject warmth and sparkle, and copper pans, used in Sweden to make bread, create an attractive display.**

Try the Linea Copper tri-ply cookware range, from £20 for a saucepan, House of Fraser. For gold-edged tableware, take a look at the Jasper Conran for Wedgwood collection, from £16, John Lewis.

Antique timber lantern on wall bracket, £49.99, Allissias Attic & Vintage French Style, is comparable

2

**DECORATING TIP**  
*'Try to avoid mixing too many colours together. Go for three or four at most – any more than that can look a bit messy'*



## 2 KITCHEN

**Chic chequerboard floor tiles provide depth of colour and help anchor the look.**

Recreate this style with the Basic White and Basic Black floor tiles, £57.96sq m, The Victorian Emporium. Winchester Cream kitchen, from £4,158, Magnet, has this look



DINING ROOM

**Big family gatherings are held in this elegant spot at Christmas and New Year.**

The Axet dining chairs, £300 each, The Swedish Chair, are similar to these bargain finds. Carved gilt antique French-style chair, £445, HomesDirect 365, is a match





#### MASTER BEDROOM

**Calming tones and floral feature wallpaper encourage a restful sleep.**

Try Sweet Bay wallpaper in ivory/green, £51 per roll, Sanderson. Hermès no longer stocks these cushions, but its Avalon wool and cashmere design, £370, would work

Annelie Stålnert is a firm believer in planning ahead; she had yet to buy her dream home but that didn't stop her sourcing things to fill it with. 'My husband Tomas tried to stop me, but I just couldn't,' she says.

The reason for Annelie's enthusiasm was a simple matter of economics. At the time, the couple were living in Beijing, where it was possible to find rare and ornate antiques without the hefty price tag. 'The shopping in China was fantastic in the 1990s,' says Annelie. 'During the cultural revolution, farmers would bury their valuables to hide them from the government, and in the 1990s, many of these were dug up. You could drive just two hours into the countryside

#### INSPIRATION

*'We didn't bring much with us to China, but we certainly returned with plenty'*

and be able to buy all of these wonderful pieces at extremely low prices. That's certainly not the case now – everything is fake and very expensive.'

Tomas's work took the couple to China, but they had always intended to return to their native Sweden with their two children Philip, now 15, and Vendela, 12. They lived in an apartment in southern Sweden while Annelie searched for the perfect family home. 'I always knew I wanted a big, old house with wooden floors and high ceilings and lots of fireplaces,' she says. 'At first I wasn't sure about this one,

until I walked into the hall.' It was the abundance of natural light that won her over. 'The space felt very calm, which is exactly what we were after.'

Situated in a neighbouring town to their rental, the house needed updating. Undeterred, the Stålnerts moved in and got straight to work on the kitchen. Everything except the original fireplace was ousted, including the dark green floorboards, which Annelie replaced with a striking chequerboard design. Original hand-painted fireplaces can be found throughout the property, adding character and

much-needed warmth during the bitterly cold winters.

Once the work was over, Annelie turned her thoughts to the decor and showcasing her Asian acquisitions. But she refused to be tied down to any one particular decorative style, certainly not the favoured minimalist, all-white Scandi aesthetic. Instead, she chose a palette of gold, grey and white, and combined her Oriental antiques and paintings with Gustavian-inspired pieces, secondhand and auction finds, plus good old Ikea furniture.

'Living in China has really influenced our taste, and this house reflects both our time there and Swedish heritage,' says Annelie. 'I think we've captured the best of both worlds.' 25



## 1 LANDING

Yellow is a key colour in Annelie's decorating scheme, and combined with white-painted woodwork, the look here is bright and cheerful.

Crivelli wallpaper in Linden by Zoffany, £80 per roll, Jane Clayton & Company, is a good substitute.

Try the Victoria crystal candle chandelier, £1,195, Alexander & Pearl



I



## DECORATING ADVICE

*'Don't be afraid to mix antiques with high-street pieces. It doesn't matter where an item comes from; what's important is the overall look'*



2

## 2 STUDY

The wallpaper is a traditional Swedish design, and along with the antique armchair, it lends a touch of grandeur to this tranquil area.

Wyndham wallpaper from the Albermarle collection by Cole & Son, £85 per roll, has a similarly classic feel



# NATURAL FLOW

*With help from a designer friend, Luke and Anna Norman breathed comfort and colour into their Thameside home*

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

## SITTING ROOM

A rug brought back from LA provided inspiration for the soft muted colours in here.

Temple coffee table, £1,350; library chairs, £1,800 each, both Julian Chichester. Howard sofa, £4,300, The Sofa & Chair Company. Lamp bases, price on request, Shake the Sky. Trail artwork by Mark Tipple, from £70, Yellow Korner



# INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Grade II listed terraced house built in the 18th century

**LOCATION** Southwest London

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, playroom, laundry, cloakroom, three bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2014

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We moved here from a house in Los Angeles,' says Anna





**DINING ROOM**  
The teak dining suite is contrasted with pale painted panels.

Lamps and chandelier, both Shake the Sky. Lydia leather-effect dining chairs would work here, £99 each, John Lewis

DESIGN TIP *'Faux leather is a good choice for white dining chairs, as they always look glamorous, and sticky finger marks can be easily wiped away'*



#### HALL

Classic tones in the hall create an elegant backdrop to a collection of black-and-white abstract paintings. Walls painted in Borrowed Light estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Brass console, £1,450, Birgit Israel



#### SNUG

Anna chose practical colours to hide wear and tear, and soft mohair upholstery. For similar turquoise velvet cushions try Oka, £46 each. Mushroom absolute matt emulsion is a match for the wall paint, £37 per 2.5 litres, Little Greene



When American-born Anna Norman and her husband Luke moved into their southwest London home, they lost no time enlisting the help of old friend and interior designer Gretchen Trusted. 'Gretchen and I go back a long way,' she says. 'I had faith in her ability to make a house classic and fun at the same time.'

The tall Georgian property had everything going for it. 'Its position overlooking the Thames is fantastic,' says Anna, 'and it has an elegant façade, panelling, original oak floors, period fireplaces and large windows.' But the house also needed a few tweaks to make it family friendly. 'It lacked what we Americans consider essentials, including built-in storage,' says Anna, mum to Max, 4, and Evangeline, 2. 'There was nowhere to hang coats, and we needed room for the children's things. Gretchen came to our rescue, as I had no experience of decorating tall narrow London homes.'

In the hall, Gretchen rejigged a dead space at the far end, and created a walk-in closet that can't be seen from the front door. 'I really wanted to keep the space looking clean and smart,' says Anna. 'It features the original panels, which we picked out in pale blue-grey colours to accentuate them and create an elegant Swedish look.'

Gretchen solved the storage problem in the master bedroom by designing a six-door mirror-fronted wardrobe in staggered formation. 'For a period property this design is a great solution,' says Anna. 'It doesn't obscure the windows



#### KITCHEN

The stylish Italian cabinetry was already here when the Normans moved in. Walls painted in New White estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



#### MASTER BEDROOM

This room has a fresh sunny ambience and the best view of the river.

Shannon Apple curtain fabric, £90m, Osborne & Little. Large brown leather trunk is comparable, £395, Decorex

**DESIGN TIP** *'If you're lucky enough to have elegant Georgian windows that aren't overlooked, don't obscure them with curtains'*

and it has mirrored panels that reflect the river view. We can lie in bed and watch the boats go by.'

The couple arrived in the UK with only a few pieces, including a favourite pale floral rug and iconic Danish teak dining room pieces. So the sitting room colour scheme took its inspiration from the soft muted hues of the rug, which in turn complements the colours outside. To lighten the effect of the teak furniture, the pair introduced orange table linen as well as yellow lamp bases. Anna has purposefully left the windows undressed, except in the master bedroom where bright green curtains make a bold statement. 'I think they complement the trees beautifully,' she says.

Lighting was also a major consideration. 'As the house is listed, we couldn't dot the ceilings with spots,' explains Anna. 'So we invested in table lamps and floor spotlights. Tucked behind pieces of furniture, they have the same effect as sunshine, washing the walls with soft shafts of light.'

For now it certainly seems that London living suits the couple down to the ground. 'We've really settled in here,' says Anna. 'Being in this place has given us the opportunity to hone our style and create an ideal home from home.'



#### BATHROOM

Bright blue tones in the artwork introduce a pop of colour into this classic, neutral space.

Sea Coral 60 x 60cm prints by Elizabeth Ockford, £450, Trowbridge Gallery

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 142



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# WELCOME CHANGE



*Matthew Fox and Chris Knowles couldn't wait to turn their Tudor home into their very own haven, and now they love sharing its delights*

FEATURE HEATHER DIXON | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Grade II listed 14th-century hall house  
**LOCATION** East Sussex  
**ROOMS** Reception room, hall, kitchen-diner, library, office, snug, four bedrooms (three en suite)  
**PURCHASED** 2012  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'We moved here from a flat in east London,' says Matthew.

RECEPTION ROOM

For Matthew and Chris this spacious entrance is the most important area. 'It's the first room people see when they come in and it sets the tone for the rest of the house,' says Matthew. Find sofas like this one from £895, Selling Antiques. Rug, £500, Rug Company



KITCHEN-DINER

**Bold burgundy cabinetry contrasts with the period features.** Celino units from £250, In-toto. Parma Gray floor paint, £58 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. White Chapel tiles, £29.95sq m, Walls & Floors





**DINING AREA**  
A Georgian drop-leaf table makes the best use of space in this elegant area. The Classic Adriano Venetian mirror would work here, £914, Wayfair. The green glass tumblers are similar, £6 each, Primrose & Plum

*FAVOURITE ROOMS 'Nothing beats snuggling up in front of the inglenook fire in our sitting room, and in summer, the view from the ground-floor bedroom into the garden is glorious'*



**HALL**  
The house features a series of half landings and staircases, while a beamed corridor leads to the snug where a welcoming log fire glows. Find antique card tables at Selling Antiques, from £585. The metal art rooster sculpture is similar to these, £35, Wayfair



Christmas is the time of year that Matthew Fox loves most of all. And with its high ceilings, oak beams, woodburning fires and bags of character, the East Sussex Tudor house he shares with his partner Chris Knowles is the perfect place to curl up and keep warm in the winter.

'Our house is quintessentially English,' says Manhattan-born Matthew. 'We had been looking for a while for a period property but they can be quite small and dark. This one stood out because of its generous proportions. It also offered an opportunity for me to work from home, running a boutique B&B. We reorganised the interior to create three en-suite guest bedrooms, as well as two additional private rooms.'

Matthew wanted their home to be elegant, cosy and slightly whimsical, and he was prepared to search high and low for the antique furniture and luxe fabrics that he has used to form the scheme. 'I enjoy mixing antiques from different periods and matching them with modern prints, which works particularly well set against the Tudor beams and the uneven wattle-and-daub walls in a home like this,' he says.

## ORGANIC OVERHAUL

Matthew and Chris lived in the house while it was renovated from top to bottom. This included installing new electrics and plumbing as well as updating the kitchen, plus repairs to the roof. Chris then designed the garden while Matthew focused on the interior.

'We knocked out walls inside and built new ones,' explains Matthew. 'But there were no extensions or exterior changes apart from a new window and French windows in the ground-floor bedroom.' The pair worked with a builder experienced in period houses. 'The building has shifted and warped with time, so everything was custom made,' explains Matthew. 'Not a single door, window or floorboard is a standard size.'

Matthew says he didn't start out with a grand plan – rather, it was an organic design process. His first step was to select the colours and fabrics he wanted in each room. He became a regular visitor to local antiques shops and auctions, where he bought most of the furniture – drawn towards anything that 'exemplified great craftsmanship, finesse and originality.'

'My aim was to introduce an eclectic juxtaposition of old and new, including bright colours and modern fabrics against period furniture and ancient beams,' says Matthew. 'It's important that everything has great aesthetic value so that when you walk into a room there is a sense of unexpected delight. The interior design was not dictated by the age or history of the house – it was just a fantastic backdrop,' he adds. 'I didn't feel beholden to it, but it was a lovely canvas to work with.'

Now that it's finished, Matthew and Chris love sharing their home with those who visit. 'It was so gratifying to restore the house to its former glory that we wanted others to be part of it,' says Matthew. 'Our home is our greatest pleasure.'



### GUEST BEDROOM

**The headboard fabric complements the colour of the 19th-century French cabinets.**

The Carey Prismatic swan neck wall lights are similar, £150 each, Fritz Fryer. Try the Renee cornflower blue petite chest, £269, Swoon Editions



### BATHROOM

**Tongue-and-groove panels have been painted in stripes to complement the elegant Georgian dresser serving as a washstand.**

Pavilion Gray and French Gray estate emulsion, £53 per 2.5 litres, both Farrow & Ball



### GUEST BEDROOM

**A collection of plates form a focal point in here.**

Headboard covered with Emily Bond black Labrador linen, £48m, Fabrics & Papers. Dorma bedding, from £15, Dunelm.

Book a stay in this room by visiting [pelhamhall.co.uk](http://pelhamhall.co.uk)

# Insight

## HOW TO COMBINE FABRIC AND COLOUR

*Follow our advice to confidently team colour with pattern, like Matthew Fox and Chris Knowles have*

**B**right hues and bold pattern can add depth and vibrancy to a scheme, but it's all too easy to play it safe for fear of making an error. However, plenty of research will produce a cohesive result, whether you mix modern, large-scale prints with intense colour to make a statement, or subtle motifs and moody hues to create interest.

### Choosing a palette

Bear in mind that vivid shades can anchor a scheme and personalise your home. Although it's tempting to opt for white or neutral walls to make a room appear larger, it's also important to draw the eye into a space by creating a colourful focal point, whether through a statement wall, introducing a feature fabric or painting shelving to offset a muted backdrop, just as Matthew and Chris have done.

Remember to harmonise your approach when picking a colour palette though – stick to just two or three shades and try repeating them from zone to zone to create a sense of continuity. When choosing colours, start slowly and trial different looks. Paint some A2 sheets of paper in your desired hue and attach them to every wall in the room as the shade will look quite different in each space, then live with them for a few days before you make up your mind. View the colour at different times of the day, in varied lights, and in electric light, too. This way, you can really get a sense of the impact they have in a scheme.



**EXPERT EYE** *'There are many interesting ways to add pattern – consider headboards, lampshades, bar stools or pouffes. I love the Mid-Century look of hanging a Moroccan rug on the wall behind a bed, or a small tapestry as artwork'*

CATHERINE DAL, PLAY ASSOCIATES

### Introducing pattern

Try looking to fashion and art for inspiration on new concepts and interesting combinations. 'But bear in mind that although designers like Kit Kemp use an abundance of pattern and colour, it's more about breaking the rules than following specific trends,' advises interiors specialist Catherine Dal. 'Tribal patterns such as Ikat or Suzani from diverse cultures are trickling into mainstream stores. This is wonderful as they come with fascinating back stories that add depth and intrigue, making them as rich as their designs.'

When choosing wall colour and patterned fabrics, remember that your decision doesn't have to be permanent. The beauty of designing your home is having the freedom to change, update and revise it as much you please. It's often a good idea to take your visual cue from a favourite piece, such as artwork.

Some of the most striking schemes will layer colour, texture and pattern. Introduce bright touches in unexpected ways – upholster an antique chair in a bold, modern geometric print for a striking contrast; frame a generous-sized fabric on the wall; create clusters of pretty glassware; or, like Matthew has done, try collating colourful collections on the wall, such as vintage ceramics. But remember to scale-up touches like this to avoid losing them in your overall scheme. Often, one statement fabric picking out key colours, can pull a scheme together.



### PROFESSIONAL ADVICE



**'Combining colour and pattern is a skill that can be learnt, but you must take risks. Experiment with things that can be affordably changed. Try a colour on one**

**wall or buy a metre of fabric and pin it on your curtains, for example. If you decide you like it, then it can be used for cushions.**

Create a mood board using a smartphone app. Upload photos of fabric, paint, furniture and accessories so that you can build up a complete picture. If they sit well together, the chances are they'll work in your room.

**Planning is key, otherwise you might end up with a chaotic scheme. But if you play it too safe with only a colourful cushion or two, the result will be underwhelming. Look to successful examples of bold interior design for inspiration, such as Dorothy Draper, Miles Redd and Kelly Wearstler.**

A successful interior often depends on what suits rather than what's in vogue. Consider the proportions of the room, its orientation and layout. Your home should be a reflection of you, so opt for what complements your lifestyle.'

REBEKAH CAUDWELL, INTERIOR DESIGNER

### ADDRESS BOOK

#### ■ Designers Guild

020 7351 5775, [designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)

Colourful fabrics, wallpapers and furniture, including whimsical florals and bold graphics

#### ■ Farrow & Ball: *Living With Colour* by

Ros Byam Shaw, £30, Ryland, Peters & Small

A reference book from the iconic Dorset-based brand showing how colour can be used to create atmosphere, character and charm

#### ■ Rebekah Caudwell Design

[rebekahcaudwelldesign.com](http://rebekahcaudwelldesign.com)

Interior designer Rebekah Caudwell is renowned for her creative colour combinations in residential settings

**SITTING ROOM**

Painted wooden furniture creates a Scandinavian look in here.

Phil made the Gustavian-style benches – find similar from £295 at Ruby & Betty's Attic



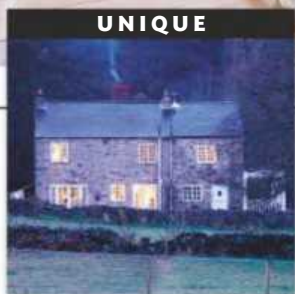
# Rustic CELEBRATIONS

*Philippa and Phil Heath's stone country cottage sets the tone for a homespun Yuletide*

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY/NARRATIVES



**SITTING ROOM**  
A triple aspect makes this a bright and welcoming space. Find reclaimed flooring from £36sq m, Lassco. White-painted furniture can be found at Ruby & Betty's Attic, from £195 for a table



**UNIQUE**

## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Converted 1800s workers' cottages, extended in 2000

**LOCATION** Derbyshire

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, four bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 1992

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'As Phil used to be in the Navy, we lived in cabins on board various merchant ships,' says Philippa.

## INSPIRATION *'The simple and neutral style of Swedish*

An old stone cottage, nestled among thick woodland on the edge of the Peak District, is home to the Heath family, who start preparing for Christmas on the first day of December every year. 'We love this time of year,' says Philippa. 'Phil and I got married in December, and my birthday's the week before Christmas, so it's a very special time. Phil and one of the boys head out to pick a tree, and collect twigs that I form into decorations such as heart shapes or stars that I then paint white.' The couple's children, Jack, 21, Tom, 20, Joe, 17, and Bess, 14, also love to make bits and bobs from timber from the woodyard, so

no room is left unadorned, transforming their home into a rustic winter wonderland, ready to celebrate the season.

The Heaths' interior is just as inventively decorated the rest of the year. Philippa and Phil have made several pieces of furniture as well as collecting hand-me-downs, salvage finds and items from skips and cleverly upcycling them. 'Good-quality paint can work wonders,' says Philippa. 'I'm constantly found with a paintbrush in my hand. Phil often jokes that he's scared to stand still for too long in case I paint him, too.'

When the couple first moved into the property in 1992, it needed much more than



**KITCHEN-DINER**

Christmas dinner is a joy in this light and inviting setting. You can buy chairs like this at The Old Cinema, from £275 for a set of four. Similar statement lighting can be found at The Chandelier & Mirror Company, from £566



**KITCHEN-DINER**

A seating area means people can chat to the cook and keep warm by the stove.

White resin stag head is a perfect match, £30, Shabby Store. Korken storage jars, from 80p, Ikea

*decor led me to use rustic logs as tables and stools, and natural materials'*





**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Once two rooms, this space  
but now provides ample space  
for the couple's sanctuary.

The Bloomsbury cushion is a good match for these, £28, Cath Kidston. Try the Pamela table lamp, £80, Bhs



**DESIGN TIP** *'Every piece of furniture has a story to tell, and I never throw anything*

a quick lick of paint. 'It was in a dreadful state,' recalls Philippa. But although the structure was damp and neglected, the magical setting immediately won them over. 'Money was tight after paying for the house,' says Philippa. 'So we had a go at most of the immediate repairs ourselves.' At the same time, they knocked two of the three small bedrooms into one good-sized master suite.

Since that initial renovation, the couple have transformed the house. The most dramatic change was a two-storey extension, built by Phil using reclaimed stone to match the cottage, and creating a larger kitchen-diner and a third bedroom above, later divided

into two. The upstairs floorboards have been stripped, salvaged flooring laid downstairs, the rooms replastered, and the electrics and plumbing updated. Philippa and Phil only called in professionals for the latter two tasks, carrying out the rest of the work themselves.

Visitors to this home can be certain it will look a little different each time they stop by, as there's always another job on the to-do list. 'I like the idea of a fireplace in our bedroom,' says Philippa. 'There's a chimney we could open up, and a picture window would give us a nice view of the woods from our bed.'

But for now, the family are looking forward to the festivities ahead. Each

Christmas they usually host around 20 family members. 'It will be noisy and chaotic, but Phil and I look forward to time with the children, putting a mince pie out for Santa and a carrot for Rudolph,' says Philippa. The children have their rituals, too – they make a special box, filling it with their favourite decorations, uneaten gold coins and a letter to themselves for the next year. 'It's amazing for them to open the box and read their letters to see just how they and their lives have changed in 12 months,' says Philippa. The house may be beautiful, the setting idyllic, but for the Heaths, it's who they share time with that's the most important thing at Christmas. 🕯



**BATHROOM**  
Pretty fabrics soften the look.  
The Oxford roll-top bath would  
work here, £549, Bathstore



**BESS'S BEDROOM**  
This charming area sits atop the  
stairs leading up from the kitchen.  
The Purity white-metal bed frame  
is comparable, £104, Worldstores.  
Try the Lynn antiqued pine  
stool, £79, Swoon Editions

*away – if it's looking tired I paint it, redesign it or move it from one room to another'*





UNIQUE



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Grade II listed 17th-century cottage

**LOCATION** Somerset

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2013  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We lived in a house in Guildford but needed a project when our son Barnaby left home,' says Michael.

# PRETTY IN PINK

*Michael and Jane Findlay's period home showcases their vibrant personalities and deep affinity for colour, texture and pattern*

FEATURE NATALIE WAIN | PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BOLTON



## 1 DINING ROOM

**A scattering of pink ribbons picks out the colour of the chairs and tablecloth.**  
Linen curtains in Brera Largo, price on request; chair fabric in Calaggioin Peony, both Designers Guild. Walls painted in Driftwood eggshell, £39.50 per 2.5 litres, Neptune. Bespoke curtains, price on application, Sims Hilditch

## 2 KITCHEN

**Quirky blue-and-white splashback tiles introduce interest to the painted units.**  
Cabinets painted in Mist eggshell, £42 per 2.5 litres; Suffolk painted bar stool, £275, both Neptune. Combine Tangier blue and Tangier white wall tiles, both £84.94sqm, Topps Tiles, to create a similar chequered effect



## SITTING ROOM

**A woodburning stove takes centre stage in this delightful living space.**

Coseyfire B2 cream multi-fuel stove, £420, Stove World UK, is similar. Seraphina Delft curtain fabric, price on request, Designers Guild



#### DINING AREA

**A stylish sofa invites people to linger for longer in this cosy area.** Suffolk oak dining chairs, £230 each; walls painted in Salt matt emulsion, £34 per 2.5 litres, both Neptune. Zinc four-seater sofa in teal, £899, DFS, would suit this scheme

### FAVOURITE FEATURE *'I love how the light streams through the tall Georgian windows'*

**B**ack in 2013, the freshly painted walls were still glistening wet and the last workman to leave had barely gathered up his tools before Michael and Jane Findlay's Christmas guests arrived. Fast forward two years and all that's now required are a few festive flourishes.

The Findlays' Grade II listed, 17th-century cottage with a Georgian extension, on the Somerset-Dorset borders, stands in a garden that's bountiful even in winter. And, filled with painterly florals, its interior pays homage to the picturesque landscape and the couple's shared passion for colour. Michael recalls the morning he saw the house for the first time: 'The place had a wonderful heart and soul, which we knew we didn't want to lose, but it needed a sense of freshness and a more contemporary feel. Structurally, it was in


remarkably good condition, so it was more of a decorative challenge than anything else.'

The main stipulation for Michael and Jane's home was that it had to provoke an emotional response and inspire them. A sophisticated palette of soft greys and blues, shot through with vibrant pink and lime, was devised with the help of interior designer Emma Sims Hilditch. This theme continues throughout, effortlessly flowing from one room to the next with layers of rich fabrics adding pattern and depth.

Due to Michael's job as a sales director at home and lifestyle company Designers Guild, the couple's house is naturally a showcase for its signature hand-painted watercolour style and fine linens. 'Pattern is important to us and it comes into its own in the Georgian section of the house with its high ceilings,'

says Michael. 'People tend to be nervous about using pattern in small spaces, but it gives the older part of the house a sense of structure, and exudes warmth and elegance.'

Come Christmas, the house will be buzzing with activity, and the dining room, with its beautifully dressed table and eye-catching fuchsia velvet upholstered chairs, will be the centrepiece. 'You have to go through this room to reach the kitchen, but we wanted it to be more than a byway and make a statement,' says Michael.

It's difficult to imagine that anyone would rush through any of the rooms without pausing to appreciate the couple's decorative efforts. The result is a vibrant, harmonious home that reflects the Findlays' personalities. 'This house immediately felt right,' says Michael. 'It's a very happy place.' 



### 1 BATHROOM

**Tongue-and-groove panelling lends a crisp country look.**

Panelling painted in Silver Birch eggshell, £42 per 2.5 litres, Neptune; Chichester countertop washstand including basin, £780, both Neptune. Gingham Chambray check blind fabric, £18m, Laura Ashley, is a match



### 2 MASTER BEDROOM

**Pink accessories have been used cleverly to add fun and freshness to this simple, neutral setting.**

Handcarved, handpainted bedside table with three drawers, price on application, Chelsea Textiles. For Designers Guild Verese fuchsia cushions, £59 each, try Houseology

### 3 GRANDCHILDREN'S BEDROOM

**Michael's two daughters have six children between them so bunk beds are a practical and space-saving option for when they come to stay.**

The Sleigh bunk, from £629 (unpainted), Bump, is identical. Portia sofa in Quinn Teal, £600, John Lewis, goes well here



# KEEPING IT IN



**HALL**  
Mirrors play a starring role in this house, and help to make the small spaces brighter. Stave mirror, £30, Ikea. The Aziz floor tiles have this look, £29.95sq m, Walls and Floors



**KITCHEN**  
In this galley space, the appliances all fit on one side, giving an uncluttered look. Get Shaker-style kitchen doors at Wickes, from £15. Try the Stenstorp plate shelf, £40, Ikea



*A bijou terrace has become a bright, cheerful home*

# THE FAMILY

*for Katie O'Brien – with help from her dad*

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE



## DINING AREA

'The aim was to make this area light and open to the garden in summer, and warm in winter,' says Katie.

Stockholm nest of tables, £160; Vilmar chairs, £20 each; Vidstrup rug, £60; Ranarp pendant light, £30, all Ikea. Wooden Stag Head trophy by Clive Roddy is a match, £85, Notonthehighstreet.com

## INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Early 1900s terraced house

**LOCATION** Dublin

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room/kitchen-diner, two bedrooms, shower room

**PURCHASED** 2015

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before this, I lived in a rented house share on the south side of the city,' says Katie.



## SITTING ROOM

The fireplace was still intact, but has a new surround and eco fire door.

Backabro/Marieby sofa bed in Svanby grey, £525; Ekerö armchair in Skiftebo orange, £130, both Ikea

When you're looking for a place to live, it's undoubtedly a help if your dad is a location scout as well as an interior designer. Katie O'Brien's father Wesley had completely refurbished several small houses in the Stoneybatter area of Dublin, and was well-versed in the layout and potential of its two-storey terraces. So when Katie needed a two-bedroom home within reasonable distance of the city, and small enough to maintain, she knew who to ask.

Built in the early 1900s, the homes comprised a downstairs front parlour, a short hall leading to the living area, a single-storey lean-to kitchen, and two bedrooms upstairs. Wesley had earmarked the area for Katie's new home and when this house came on the market, he snapped it up. The property was in bad shape, though, having been empty for years. 'It was dark, poky and cold,' says Katie, 'but I knew that Dad could work wonders.'

Wesley wasted no time. 'The first thing to do was to strip the house back so it was faithful to its Victorian footprint,' he says. 'We removed the rear extension, so the living area and kitchen get light all day, and moved the bathroom upstairs.'

The bathroom was fashioned from space taken from the back bedroom and



#### GUEST BEDROOM

**'I wanted every room to be as cheerful as we could make it,' says Katie.**

London traffic silhouette print by Atlas & I, £55, Notonthehighstreet.com. Yellow Topsy cushion, £12, Habitat. Trål floor/reading lamp, £26; Krusning pendant shade, £9, both Ikea



daylight introduced through a skylight, while the whole house is painted white to make it as bright as possible. For warmth and to keep heating bills down, the entire building was well insulated and the windows and doors replaced with double glazed timber sashes to the front.

'The really fun part was the furnishing and finishing,' says Katie. 'Dad is great at sniffing out good stuff for a reasonable cost. To complement the white backdrop, we picked out a few basics in greys and whites and then added plenty of colour, including turquoise and orange in the sitting room, blues in the kitchen and yellows in the back bedroom.' And now, since moving in, Katie hasn't looked back. 'It's a fantastic place to live in,' she says. 'It's 10 out of 10 for Dad!' 25

#### MASTER BEDROOM

**This space has attractive detailing around the original chimney arch.**

Svelvik standard double bed, £210; Malm chest of drawers, £85, both Ikea. Designers Guild Sienna Peony throw would suit this scheme, £185, John Lewis



**DESIGN TIP** *'For smaller rooms like the front bedroom, we created space by keeping the colour scheme very simple, just painting the fireplace black to provide contrast'*



#### SHOWER ROOM

**Clever design tricks have made the most of space in this internal area.**

Fullen/Tälleviken washbasin cabinet, £72; Rörsjär chrome-plated mixer tap, £35, both Ikea



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#### SITTING ROOM

This space was completely overhauled as the stone, wood and plaster was in disrepair.

Stone mantle, £260, Cotswold Natural Stone. Cambered wooden oak floor, £65m, Machells. Studded easy chair, from £410, Coach House



# ALE & HEARTY

Unperturbed by the task of restoring a dark and dilapidated brewery, Simon Gill and Jacky Hobbs took it in their stride

**FEATURE** FLORENCE BARBER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** CLIVE NICHOLS

While house hunting, Simon Gill, a property investor, and his partner Jacky Hobbs, a stylist, came across a council-owned, Grade II listed, former Cotswold brewery that was up for auction. Plus, it came with planning permission to convert the mishmash of offices into a family home.

With their interest sparked, the pair swiftly arranged a viewing. 'The property was cavernous, dark and gloomy with unattractive bolted-on rooms to the side and rear,' explains Jacky. 'It wasn't the obvious blueprint for a dream home as it had no clear residential layout.' However, both enthused by the location and the inherent, albeit faded,



#### SNUG

A mix of old and new pieces are drawn together by their neutral tones and natural materials. Tumbled limestone floor, from £39sq m, Beswickstone. Rochelle French armchair in Dove Grey, £295, Within Home, is a match

#### REPLANNED



#### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Converted brewery, dating back to 1798

**LOCATION** Cotswolds

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, office, utility/cloakroom, four bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2013

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We were after a home in the Cotswolds and this project caught our attention,' says Jacky.



#### KITCHEN

Bespoke units fill redundant doorways and recesses to make the most of this small area.

Chichester units, £16,000; painted in Mist eggshell, £42 per 2.5 litres, both Neptune



#### DINING AREA

Although this is a new extension, it has been sympathetically designed with oak doors and skirting, and repointed stonework. Building work by Kinglerlee. Sliding glass doors, £14,000, IQ Glass. Moda buttoned chair, £230 for two, Next, are comparable



#### MASTER BEDROOM

**An imposing oak bed takes centre stage.**

Antique oak sedalia, £700, Lots Road Auctions, converted by Ricochet li, Burford. Balustrade table lamp, £125, Oka, has this look

#### BATHROOM

**This uncluttered scheme has smooth and simple lines for a sleek finish.**

Regent honed limestone floor and wall tiles, £36sq m, Beswickstone. The Brewery is available to rent at [luxury.cotswoldrentals.co.uk](http://luxury.cotswoldrentals.co.uk)



#### FAVOURITE SHOP

*'I love going to Lots Road Auctions. Each week there's a new range of exciting items that we never imagined we were even looking for – we love the thrill of bidding!'*

original features, the couple scribbled up some potential redesigns. Simon costed the plans and successfully bid at auction. Before they knew it, renovations were underway.

#### KEEPING HISTORY

'We aimed to restore and enhance the historic elements of the brewery, eradicating recent work and replacing it with modern constructions,' says Simon. For example, the couple decided to drop the rear quarter of the building to create an internal courtyard with glass walls to the entire severed house end and side. 'Once complete, we had an enclosed space that poured light into the rear rooms.' An equally light-filled kitchen-diner was created by building a lantern roof over the yard. In the kitchen, floor-to-ceiling cupboard space was borrowed from doorways, into which larder cupboards and appliances were set.

In terms of reviving original details, together with a team of expert builders, they revealed and repaired walls, hidden fireplaces and beams. 'When we removed pine cladding in the hall, we uncovered an internal stone window,' says Simon, who then amended the layout to accommodate it. The sitting room fireplace was enlarged to reflect the proportions of the space, and a Cotswold stone mantel was installed. Upstairs, ceilings were removed to expose beams, and in the bedroom, the existing crossbeam was replaced.

#### ADDING TEXTURE

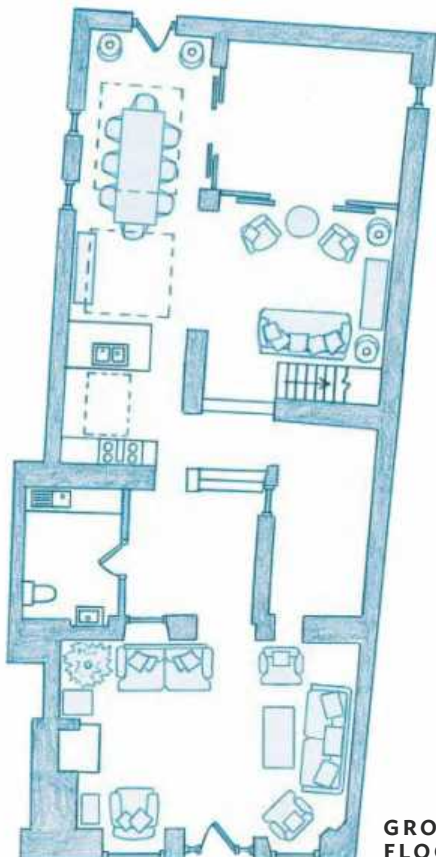
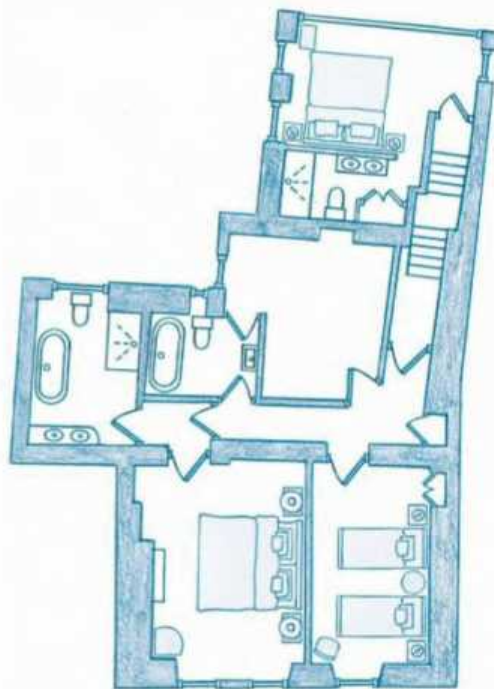
Jacky sourced furniture and fabrics, many from auctions and salvage yards. 'We wanted to furnish the house in a way that reflected its age and history, but which added a sense of function and comfort,' she explains. One of Jacky's best finds was the master bedstead. 'We discovered a charming, carved oak piece of furniture at auction, and with the help of a local carpenter, we transformed it into a striking bed.'

For the finishing touches, soft furnishings are simple, comprising natural fibres and neutral colours with rustic linens, in plains and faded florals, together with wool checks and plaids, and paint colours are mute and discreet. The Christmas decor is equally understated. 'This house is intrinsically welcoming, with its inviting oak doors, mellow stone walls and roaring log fires,' says Jacky, who simply adds a fir tree and wreath to the usual display of seasonal flowering plants. 'Buying this place was a gamble,' she says, 'but we love the resulting marriage of old and new.' 25

**GUEST BEDROOM**

The glass wall was installed to add a contemporary twist to this space.

Bespoke glass panels, IQ Glass. Walls painted in Ammonite estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Blinds in Cotswold Linen in Elephant, £21m, Just Fabrics

**AFTER****GROUND FLOOR****FIRST FLOOR****BEFORE****FROM DARK TO BRIGHT**

To create private outdoor space and encourage natural light into the building, Simon and Jacky raised two storeys at the back of the property to form an internal courtyard with glass walls to the dining room, snug and first-floor bedroom above. They also demolished the old, tacked-on toilet block and enclosed the exposed back garden. This enabled them to build a contemporary kitchen-diner with capacious roof lanterns that spill light into the rear of the building.



#### TV ROOM

**'We left the original beams unpainted for a natural, rustic feel,' says Sue.**

Groundpiece corner sofa, from £7,862, Flexform at Harrods. Nordlux Respect pendant shade, £34.95, Trade Lighting, has this look. The French mirror, £600, West Barn Country Interiors, is comparable

# ACCESS ALL AREAS

A free-flowing layout was top of the agenda for Sue and Andrew Kirkpatrick's new home

FEATURE JO LEEVERS | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



#### SITTING ROOM

**'We have a collection of dark, earthy vessels and bowls in here for a change of mood,' says Sue.**

Ravel ottoman by Patricia Urquiola, from £953, for B&B Italia, would suit. For Audrey Hepburn prints try Ikea, £25,



### DINING AREA

The long, open space is great for family time and entertaining guests at the well-dressed table.

Omero dining table, £8,026, The Maxalto collection at B&B Italia.  
Try Henriksdal long chair covers in Blekinge white, £20 each, Ikea.  
Fontana Arte Amax suspension lamp, £245, DM Lights

### REPLANNED



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Converted barn and outbuilding

### LOCATION

Northamptonshire

**ROOMS** Sitting room/dining area/kitchen-diner/TV room, office, workshop, five bedrooms (all en suite)

**PURCHASED** 2002

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We moved here from a new-build in a village nearby,' says Sue.



#### KITCHEN

'The stencilled message on the wall is jokingly directed at me,' says Sue. 'I'm not the cook in the house!'

Bespoke handmade kitchen by Bell. Try Tolix silver chair, £49, MDM Furniture

Sue and Andrew Kirkpatrick's daily journey into work was usually an uneventful affair, until one day they spotted an interesting proposition. They used to rent an office space for Andrew's financial company on a local farm in Northamptonshire, where the outbuildings included a rustic, undeveloped barn. 'We had been looking for a property to buy, with the potential to rebuild and create an open-plan living space from scratch,' explains Sue. 'So when we noticed the farm was up for sale, it was just too good an opportunity to miss.'

The couple wasted no time in taking the life-changing decision to buy the entire farm with the aim of developing and selling off the outlying buildings and keeping the largest barns for themselves. However, it was the chance to create a free-flowing, eco-friendly house that was the biggest draw for them. 'We had always hated the way the central heating determined how the rooms and walls were set out in our previous house, and our dream was to have underfloor heating, a ground-source heat pump, a heat-recovery system and hard floors throughout,' says Sue. 'This was a way to build an interesting and light-filled home.'

Given the scale of the renovation, Sue and Andrew enlisted the help of Derek James of M & J Architects. 'We knew what we wanted to achieve but couldn't have done it without his knowledge and skill,' adds Sue. 'And although the barns had been derelict for years, they came with plenty of planning restrictions.' The couple were fortunate that they could remain in their previous

### DECORATING ADVICE *'Sourcing vintage furniture is all about being patient. So*

#### DINING AREA

The kitchen lies beyond a contemporary glass screen that slides back like a barn door.

Vintage leather chesterfield two-seater sofa bed in tan, £1,690, Old Boot, is a good option





*look around different places and bide your time until the right piece comes along'*

## AFTER





**MASTER EN SUITE**  
This luxurious area lies behind the dividing wall in the bedroom.

Duravit Starck 1 bath, £2,363, CP Hart. Wall painted in Pure & Original Fresco Lime paint, £36.50 for 1 litre, West Barn Country Interiors

home while the work was being done, which began with creating a set of office units. Once completed, Andrew relocated his business here, and was able to keep an eye on the rest of the build. Sue and Andrew's son James did most of the work, along with a team of local craftsmen, so the project was in safe hands.

When it came to the interior decor, the couple found that their traditional furniture didn't suit such large, open spaces and expanses of glass. Having blown the budget on a couple of key statement pieces to design each room around, Sue had to then take a creative approach sourcing supplementary items. 'I bought more affordable pieces, such as a table, chairs and a dresser, at auction and on eBay,' she explains, 'and then painted them to complement the contemporary surroundings'.

Upcycling furniture and sourcing antiques from France and Belgium slowly turned into a viable business. 'My favourite place is Waterloo flea market in Belgium; you always find some interesting pieces there, we have a 3am start!' says Sue, who now runs online furniture company West Barn Country Interiors, from her home office/workshop. 'I really wanted a separate area for work life, otherwise it tends to spread throughout the home.' She also has a retail space at Kibworth Antiques Centre in Leicester. 'It has a mix of antiques and painted pieces, and my benchmark is to only sell what I'd happily have in my own home,' she adds.

The new-look barn, home to the couple and grown-up children James and Katie, is undeniably impressive. 'It has a lovely open, organic feel,' says Sue. 'We're so proud of what we've achieved.'

**FAVOURITE DETAIL** *'Underfloor heating is great – I'll never go back to radiators'*



**MASTER BEDROOM**

Soft, neutral tones were chosen to complement the barn's oak beams. Grand leather headboard, from £539, Indigo, is equally impressive. Monogrammed bedlinen, from £50 for a pillowcase, Volga Linen

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# Insight

## MATCHING OLD STYLES WITH NEW

*The Kirkpatricks successfully mixed period details with glass elements. Here's how to get this look*

Bringing a period building into the 21st century while respecting its origins and features can be very rewarding. The key is to contrast old and new without either elements jarring – planning and research will pay dividends.

### Harmonious blend

If you are renovating an old building from scratch, as the Kirkpatricks have done, there are plenty of ways to make an impact. Many successful conversions play on period features but still introduce contemporary notes. Try emphasising unusual characteristics rather than obscuring them – for instance, leaving a double-height living space exposed will draw attention to vaulted ceilings, whereas plenty of glass in the form of interior walls or balustrades can create contrast while also helping to maintain an open feel. Exposed brickwork and lightly treated beams will preserve the rustic nature of your conversion, but modern, streamlined kitchens and bathrooms will offer a contemporary juxtaposition.

Conversions are often unconventional in size and shape, so try to be flexible with your scheme and be prepared to alter your layout to suit the space. A semi-industrial approach can often work surprisingly well – consider stone, wood or concrete flooring, as well as steel fittings to create a striking, modern note. Bear in mind that if the building is listed, you won't be able to alter its exterior

or add any new external openings, but conservation officers are often more liberal with interior alterations.

### Picture perfect

Breaking up a large expanse of solid structure, such as an external brick wall with an inset window, is an effective way of lighting a space and maximising views. Modern innovations and design techniques have progressed to make this an environmentally viable option. But beware of incorporating glass ad hoc without thorough planning as the result could be an expensive, glare-filled, privacy-free home that is prone to overheating. Instead, outline what you are looking to achieve, as glass should be used to meet a specific purpose. What views do you want to take in? Will the orientation of the glazing mean that the sun will blind you all day? How would you like the space to be viewed from outside? Are there problems with overlooking neighbouring buildings? The answer to these questions will define the correct approach for you.

Incorporated sensitively, a modern picture window will frame nature beautifully, as it does in Sue and Andrew's barn. Bear in mind that glass walls and staircases can be an effective internal device, too, especially when contrasted against original brickwork, creating links between rooms that are otherwise divided, as well as allowing for an increased flow of light.



### PROFESSIONAL ADVICE



'Whether for a major extension or modest refurbishment, glass can define how a house feels and operates. Technological advancements have pushed the material further than before,

prompting us to see glass in a new light.

**The main purpose of glass is, of course, to allow light in and views out, but these days it can offer more functionality than ever. Double and triple glazed floor-to-ceiling panels allow a blurring of the boundary between inside and outside, connecting us with nature without bringing hostile weather indoors.**

Glass is an effective tool in creating extensions on period properties, as well as getting them through planning. It creates a clear distinction between the old and the new, while its transparency allows the original building to stand out and be appreciated. Subtle introductions of glass internally can also make a space feel larger and brighter, without requiring drastic changes to the house.

**As with all design, the success of glass will always be specific to a house's site and existing context. For measured advice, visit an architect. A Client's Guide to Engaging an Architect, £10, RIBA Publishing, is useful.'**

SHAHRIAR NASSER, BELSIZE ARCHITECTS

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**EXPERT EYE** *'Don't be afraid to go for a bold approach. For example, sleek glass box extensions can blend surprisingly well with a period property. But do be respectful of your home's unique and original features, as it's important that they all work well together'*

MARK SYLVESTER, ICON ARCHITECTS

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# Country PURSUIT

Patsy Holdsworth fell in love with her dream cottage in a quaint rural village long before it became available, but she knew it was worth the wait

**FEATURE** VICTORIA JENKINS  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** WILLIAM GODDARD



I



## INSPIRING

### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** End-of-terrace cottage, built around 1815

**LOCATION** The Cotswolds

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, back kitchen, office, cloakroom, two bedrooms, bathroom

**MOVED IN** 2014

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before moving here, I lived in nearby Cheltenham in a garden apartment,' says Patsy.

### I SITTING ROOM

'Using neutral colours throughout creates a sense of calm and enlarges the space,' says Patsy.

Walls painted in Ammonite estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For a similar armchair try the Bingley, £650, Sofa.com. Chair upholstered in Organic Ticking, £29m, Ian Mankin

### KITCHEN-DINER

Patsy drew the quotation over the hearth using just a grey permanent marker.

Dimplex electric woodburner, £190, Amazon.

Dorchester dining chairs, £100 each, The Cotswold Company, is a good match





**KITCHEN**  
A fresh coat of paint on the cabinets has lightened up this entire area.  
Pembroke trolley, £395, T&G Woodware.  
Units painted in Shaded White estate eggshell, £53 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



**KITCHEN-DINER**  
'The older a piece of furniture, the more character it has. I've had my table for years, but by repainting the base, it looks as good as new,' says Patsy.  
Table painted in Hardwick White eggshell, £53 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Green pendant light, £17, HomeSense. Sanderson Country Stripes Saxon fabric, £31m, is similar to the curtain fabric



Not everyone would spend money renovating a rental cottage. But interior designer Patsy Holdsworth had always loved the Cotswolds village in which this end-of-terrace is situated, so she was more than willing to help bring it back to life.

'There are only 30 houses in the village and it's a delightful place with a strong community spirit,' she says. 'I'd always wanted to live there ever since I began riding horses through its one and only street. I often passed a pretty Regency cottage where an 80-year-old gentleman was the tenant – he had been there 35 years.' Then one day, Patsy heard that the cottage had become available. 'It was a rare opportunity as most of the houses are owned by local families and hardly ever come up for rent. So I tracked down the landlord and became his new tenant.'

The cottage was in a very poor condition with an overgrown garden. 'There was no heating and the plaster was coming off the walls as there was no damp-proof course,' says Patsy. 'The hob was in a dangerous condition and the first time I tried to light the Rayburn, it exploded and cracked in half. The chimney was full of jackdaw twigs and the plug sockets were unsafe and needed replacing.'

The first night Patsy stayed there she was bitterly cold and discovered there were mice in the kitchen, too. But none of this deterred her. After spending almost 30 years renovating properties for both clients and herself, she had strong ideas on how she could make the cottage home.

## TIME FOR A CHANGE

With some input from the landlord, Patsy has worked wonders. Wiring and sockets have been replaced, the walls were patch-plastered, while carpets and lino were thrown out. 'I laid new travertine flooring in the kitchen and hall, and sanded and painted the old floorboards upstairs,' she explains. 'Plus, the blocked-up fireplace in the sitting room concealed an inglenook, so I opened it up and installed a woodburning stove. Then I put an electric woodburner in the kitchen.' As for the motley collection of kitchen units, Patsy disposed of most of them and painted the remaining in Farrow & Ball's Shaded White. She finished it off with a charming butcher's block on wheels, and a new sink and worktops.

Next, it was time to move on to the decor so, one by one, Patsy worked her way through all the rooms. This included doing all the paintwork herself as well as tiling the bathroom. She also made her curtains and cushions and upholstered the headboards and armchairs. Much of the furniture was bought on eBay or from HomeSense or charity shops, and then upcycled with luxurious fabrics, a coat of paint or by adding pretty knobs.

But even after all this, she hasn't finished yet. 'I'd like a bigger woodburner in the sitting room, as the heat goes straight up the open stairs. That's next on my to-do list,' she says, as well as the small task of renovating the village hall. 'It's the hub of social life here and the village has been given a grant to renovate it, so I'm helping out. It never ends, but I wouldn't have it any other way.'



## I & 2 BATHROOM Mosaic tiling and Venetian mirrors lend an exotic touch to this classic scheme.

Keswick traditional cloakroom basin and chrome washstand, £175, Victorian Plumbing, has this look. Towel heater, £49, Bathstore. Walls painted in Ammonite Stone estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

## 3 MASTER BEDROOM Antique furnishings create quirky arrangements.

Try Notonthehighstreet.com for a wide selection of Venetian mirrors, from £149 each

#### LANDING

**This often wasted area is filled with trinkets that add character.**

Walls painted in Pigeon estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Five jar pendant, from £160, JamJar Lights. Cox & Cox is a good place to source butlers tray tables like this one, £55 each



#### GUEST BEDROOM

**A holiday in Morocco inspired the colourful decor and bright accessories in here.**

Juliette shabby chic king-size bed, £555, Bedroom Furniture Direct. Headboard upholstered in Stockholm Stitch in Casement Red, £84m, Lewis & Wood. Black lampshade, from £20, Marks & Spencer



**DESIGN TIP** *'Build your scheme around a key piece you love. I kept one particular fabric for years, and I was lucky to have enough to recover the headboard in my bedroom'*

#### MASTER BEDROOM

**'By changing the direction that the door opens, this space feels much larger and more airy,' says Patsy.**

Headboard upholstered in Violet Rio in Beringela, £495m, Colony Roma. Cushions made from Stockholm Stitch in Citrus/Off White, £84m, Lewis & Wood. Corey brass lamp base, £35, Laura Ashley, is comparable



# MONO MAGIC

A two-tone theme has brought drama and depth of colour to Tine and Jacob Kjeldsen's chic Scandi interior

FEATURE KATHY HURST | PHOTOGRAPHY NEW STYLE INTERIORS

## INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Detached villa, built in 1854

### LOCATION

Rynkeby, Denmark

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, five bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2002

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a house near Copenhagen,' explains Tine.



## DINING ROOM

Set against the dark shades, pink cushions add softness. Linen cushion in rose with fringe detail, £21, Birdie Fortescue, is similar. Metdome pendant lights, £122 each; black dining chair, £170, all Tine K Home. Metal industrial display case, £599, Maisons du Monde, would look good here

## SITTING ROOM

A white backdrop allows each piece to really stand out. Large basket, £29, Tine K Home. Long Island sofa, from £2,820; House scatter cushion in midnight blue, £30, both Sofa.com, are comparable. Black tripod floor lamp, £130, Cargo; with Hemsta lamp shade, £17, Ikea, will create a similar effect



**T**ine Kjeldsen's home is every inch the festive dream. Here, vintage tealights cluster on the mantelpiece, flames from the open fire dance in the hearth, and native Danish spruce decorated with simple baubles and shimmering ribbon adorns the sitting room. 'I look to nature at Christmas time and like to bring the outside in,' says Tine, who runs online interiors store Tine K Home. 'Me and my family love to take long walks in the countryside and bring back pine cones and twigs. They look so pretty dotted with glitter and placed around the house.'

But when Tine and her husband Jacob first bought the property, it had been empty for two years and was in a state of neglect. 'Everything was very old – but not in a good way,' recalls Tine. 'The kitchen was dated, the taps didn't work and the walls were painted a garish yellow. We gutted the whole place, opening up the rooms to create a more free-flowing space and installing insulation and underfloor heating.'

Although the couple had renovated previous houses, they had never undertaken anything on this scale. 'Buying this place was a big step

**FAVOURITE ITEM** *'I love the industrial bathroom cabinet – a French flea-market find, which we*

**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Textured fabrics add warmth to this ultra-cool, monochrome setting. Livia curtain, £128, Anthropologie, has this look. Walls painted in Strong White estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



#### KITCHEN

**Tine made the leather handles, to add interest to the plain units.**

For cabinet handles like these ones, from £12 each, try Handles and Knobs Direct. The Limehouse kitchen, from £15,000, Neptune, is comparable in style. Antique silver tray, £155, Tine K Home



#### HALL

**'We always remove our muddy boots when entering the house so it remains pretty clean!' says Tine.**

Baskets, from £26, Tine K Home. Strong White floor paint, £58 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



#### BATHROOM

Beautiful brassware and vintage pieces make strong style statements in here. Brass waterfall rain and handheld shower, £270, Tapso.co.uk. Try Wearship's vintage medical dentist cabinet, £375, Etsy. Concrete floor, from £100sq m, The Resin Floor Co



#### SNUG

Stylish Christmas decorations extend a festive welcome. Take a look at Xmas Direct's Clear shatterproof glass-style baubles, £12 for 10. Bamboo lounge chair, £290; palm leaves/wood stool, £15, both Tine K Home. Vintage rustic wooden stools, £35 for three, The Other Duckling, would suit this scheme

*brought back to Denmark in the boot of our car'*



for us as it's a good hour and a half away from many of our family and friends – but when we saw it we simply fell in love with it,' says Tine.

Indeed, the property, an old patrician villa, had many period features, which the Kjeldsens worked hard to salvage. The double-framed timber windows were restored to their former glory, brass door handles were removed and nickel-plated, and the couple painted the existing floorboards and walls white to reflect the crisp, northern sunshine. 'A white backdrop means you can very easily introduce colour – and change your palette to suit your mood,' explains Tine. They have introduced furniture in contrasting monochrome tones: a dining table and chairs from Tine's own collection, vintage armoires painted in deep charcoal and relaxed linens in faded blacks and greys. And objects from their travels adorn the shelves and surfaces.

The house is now the ideal place for seasonal entertaining. 'We'll feast on duck and white potatoes fried in butter and sugar until they're golden brown, and salads flavoured with walnuts and cinnamon,' says Tine. 'Then we'll go for a long walk, visit the church and gather round our roaring fire to warm ourselves against the cold.'

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## INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Late-Victorian semi-detached house

**LOCATION**

Southeast London

**ROOMS** Through sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, en-suite bedroom, dressing room, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 1985

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We renovated a Regency terraced house in Ramsgate before buying this place,' says Shirley.

# Double VISION

*Shirley Parker Gore updated her home with vibrant hues and bold prints*

## SITTING ROOM

'I love colour, and the warm yellow walls in here are both vibrant and relaxing,' says Shirley. Classic British Grande aged brass Victorian ceiling pendant, £575, The Lighting Company, is comparable. Walls painted in Vermeer Yellow flat emulsion by Zoffany, £41 per 2.5 litres, Designer Paint

FEATURE CATHERINE LAW | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



#### SITTING ROOM

**This double-length space has a pleasing English formality with a variety of places to sit.**

For similar upholstery trimmings and fringes try Kate Forman or MacCulloch & Wallis. Sofa Workshop's Richardson sofa, £1,869, is a good alternative. Denbigh leather chair, from £1,150, Laura Ashley, has this look

### DECORATING TIP *'To create a cohesive scheme, start with a strategy in*



Examples of hair-raising decor, including a rainbow mural on the sitting room wall and architraves in dark green paint, greeted Shirley Parker Gore and her husband Graham when they first crossed the threshold of their late-Victorian semi. But for Shirley, these were minor details that failed to sway her determination to make the place her home. 'I could picture the final look right down to the finest detail,' she says. 'Even when the property was a building site, I could imagine exactly what it was going to look like.'

The pair had been drawn to this leafy hill-top area in southeast London as it is unusually peaceful. 'We couldn't believe how quiet it is, even though we are close to the centre of town,' says Shirley. 'The house

has a calm atmosphere, which suits me. I like order and a fair amount of formality.'

When they moved in, the couple were relieved that many original features, such as the stained-glass front door and ceiling mouldings, had been left intact, but there was still a lot of structural work to do. Knocking down a wall between the two downstairs rooms to open up the space, and taking with it the rainbow mural, was a priority. They then sanded and varnished the floors, had the house rewired and created an en suite out of the small guest bedroom. 'Once the basics were complete,' says Shirley, 'we could start on the decor.'

But it wasn't until eight years ago that the pair opted to build an extension to create a kitchen-diner. What strikes visitors about this space is its modern feel. 'I didn't want it



### DINING AREA

'Eventually, we removed the small extension at the back of the house to create a new kitchen-diner. I wish we'd done it ages ago,' says Shirley. Willis & Gambier 8-10 seater extending table, £599; Henry chair with leather seat, £175, both John Lewis

*mind and decorate a whole room in one go – instead of doing it piecemeal'*



### KITCHEN

The original fireplace is the perfect size for the cooker. Britannia Fleet 120, £4,795, Rangecookers.co.uk, is similar. Units and wall painted in New White estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



**BEDROOM**

**Shirley made the curtains and blinds herself with fabric from Tuscany.** Laura Ashley's Gosford Charcoal Grey Floral fabric, £36m, is a close match. Toulouse mahogany sleigh bed, £449, Time4Sleep, would evoke this look

**BEST BUY** *'Our bed is part of a set we bought for our first home – it's aged well'*
**EN SUITE**

**A black basin is a bold addition, but it links the dark colours of the bedroom curtains with this space.** Monza Black countertop basin, £189, Click Basin, is near-identical

to be a pastiche of Victorian style,' says Shirley. 'We aimed for a contrast between old and new. I even painted the roof beams a metallic hue for an industrial feel.'

Graham fitted the kitchen and Shirley decorated it in duck egg, pale green and cream, which linked the units and walls with the rest of the room. 'Some people are afraid of colour and go for neutral schemes,' says Shirley. 'But you can use bright tones without them being intrusive.' The yellow in the sitting room sums up this ethos. This space has a traditional formality in contrast to the kitchen-diner, with a selection of antiques and junk-shop finds. Modern sculptures express Shirley's personality, while ornate items bring in Florentine flair, influenced by the couple's love for Tuscany.

Shirley made the sumptuous curtains out of embroidered fabric she found in

Italy, and the colour matches the walls exactly. Her attention to detail, such as adding tassels to door keys and drawer knobs, is all part of her look. The relaxed elegance continues in the bedroom, where more treasured antiques take centre stage.

'I'm a very creative person,' explains Shirley, 'and when I retired I learnt how to do silkscreen printing.' Several of her prints are displayed throughout the house and depict nature, cityscapes, and Pearly Kings and Queens. She has had exhibitions in London and Tuscany, where the pair plan to buy a home in the future. 'I'm excited about moving and doing it all again,' she says.

The couple will spend Christmas in their home before decamping to daughter Danielle's house for New Year, where, no doubt, exciting plans for 2016 and the move to Italy will be the topic of conversation. **25**



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**Q** What century does The Manor House date from?  
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# MODERN VINTAGE

*Lisa and Ant Hughes relocated to a smaller home, injecting it with charm, colour and upcycled finds*

FEATURE ALIX JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

## FAMILY ROOM

**A collection of antique mirrors creates a strong focal point in here.**

The Dar Lighting Renoir silver grey three-light pendant is similar, £155, Castlegate Lights. The Chesterfield sofa is vintage, but The English Sofa Company make them from £950. Walls painted in Egyptian Cotton matt, £21.29 per 2.5 litres, Dulux

## NEW-BUILD



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

A Cotswold stone townhouse built in 2006

**LOCATION** Oxfordshire

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, five bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2010

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we were living in a large Modernist house nearby,' says Lisa.





### 1 KITCHEN-DINER

**'We mark out places we've been on the map, so Milo learns geography,' says Lisa.** World map murals, from £26sq m, Photowall. San Quentin Tahoe dining table, £699, Barker & Stonehouse

### 2 MASTER BEDROOM

**Lisa wanted a super king-size bed to fit here.** Juliette bed, from £1,099, Feather & Black.

Baroque transparent black bourgie lamp, £59, Cult Furniture. Woods wallpaper, price on application, Cole & Son

### 3 AIDAN'S BEDROOM

**Each of the boys chose their own decorative schemes for their space, and this room is bolder than the rest of the house.** Innermost Jeeves and Wooster bowler hat light, £186, Cimmermann

The impetus to downsize came in 2010 for Lisa Hughes and her husband Ant, when they discovered they were expecting their third child, and wanted to reduce their outgoings by selling their large 1960s home. 'We felt life was too short to be a slave to bricks and mortar and wanted to save money for new adventures,' explains Lisa. 'Our last home was difficult to market, as people usually move to the Cotswolds to find a traditional country cottage. So when we got a buyer, we quickly found this modern townhouse to tide us over.'

Five years later, the family remain in the house once viewed as a temporary measure and have made it their own in more ways than they could have imagined. 'When we tried to move on, our boys Aidan, 13, Leo, 11, and Milo, 5, put their feet down and refused to budge,' explains Lisa. 'They can walk to their friends' houses from here, and to school.'

Lisa has stamped her personality on the place, filling it with vintage and thrift-shop finds, contemporary touches and a feminine feel. 'With four men in the house, I needed to counteract all the testosterone,' she jokes. She has a passion for second-hand finds with a patina of age. Collections of old leather

### LESSONS LEARNT

*'When buying vintage, trust your instincts; if you see something you like, buy it there and then. You might never see one again!'*

cases, baskets and apple crates create one-of-a-kind storage units, while vignettes of smaller items with retro appeal add interest.

But when dressing the house with antiques and time-worn classic fabrics was not quite enough to transform this new townhouse into somewhere she could love, Lisa looked at enlarging the living space by introducing an extension running the full length of the back. 'As building works go, it was fairly stress-free,' she says. The whole process took just six months to finish.

A kitchen refit to include a walk-in pantry is next on the agenda, plus a new bathroom. 'I'm already planning it and collecting a mix of vintage and industrial pieces and shopfittings,' says Lisa. 'I love deciding what improvements to make next. I think we've turned this place into a real home, full of heart.' 25



## TAKE A LOOK AT THE REST OF LISA AND ANT'S HOME





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# WILD AT HEART

*Dreams of a life in the country came true for Odetta and Richard Matthews*

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY BRIDGET PEIRSON

## DISTINCTIVE



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

A 200-year-old converted barn

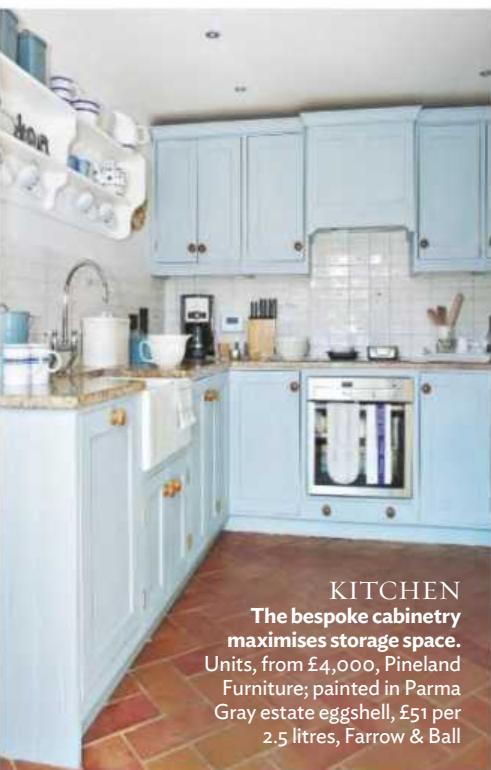
**LOCATION** Devon

**ROOMS** Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, snug, bedroom, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2008

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'My job in finance meant we spent a lot of time abroad,' says Richard.



**KITCHEN**  
The bespoke cabinetry maximises storage space. Units, from £4,000, Pineland Furniture; painted in Parma Gray estate eggshell, £51 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



After three decades working and living abroad, Odetta Matthews and her husband Richard were looking to settle in Devon in 2008. But it took a while before they found this slice of rural heaven. 'We covered a lot of ground and viewed and rejected 29 properties before we came to see this place,' explains Odetta. 'And as we looked down from the top of the hill and saw the lovely landscape and not another house in sight, we both had a feeling that this could be the one.' 'We knew it would be a massive challenge to convert an old barn,' adds Richard, 'but the advantage was that we'd end up with something that would be just right for us.'

Although it looks calm and welcoming now, the barn threw up some major issues during the renovation, as Richard recalls: 'Two of the walls partially collapsed during



**SITTING ROOM**  
Pieces picked up from overseas decorate this snug spot.

Vintage leather Brooklyn sofa, £1,195, Rose & Grey, would work in here. India Jane sells a selection of kilim cushions, £39 each. Sockerärt jug, £6, Ikea

**DINING ROOM**  
This area is great for mealtimes or just relaxing with a cup of tea.

Lubelska reclaimed terracotta brick tiles, £149.76sq m, Fired Earth. Harvest rug, from £55, John Lewis. For a dresser like this one try John Lewis of Hungerford, from £1,350



#### BATHROOM

**A rainfall shower fitted above the bath is a luxurious touch.**

Large oval curtain rail, £150, Victorian Plumbing. Virginia white single door mirrored cabinet has this look, £39, Homebase

#### BEDROOM

**There's an air of romance in this charming scheme.**

Engineered oak floor, around £35sq m, Chaunceys Timber Flooring. Carrick white metal bed, £494, Dreams. Ursula beige throw, £20, Ikea



**INSPIRATION** *'We've stayed in a lot of hotels, particularly in the Far East, and we have seen some fabulous interior design, so we know the importance of high-quality fittings'*

the initial stages of the project, as we had severe weather, and old barns like these don't have foundations. So the building had to be underpinned, which is a time-consuming business, and while the old cement floor was being removed more heavy rain fell, causing the gable end to crack, half of the south wall to fall to the ground and the roof to buckle and twist.'

Some people might have been dispirited by such a disaster, but not Odetta and Richard. 'It turned out to be a good thing in the end,' says Odetta philosophically. 'The original position of the joists meant you could barely move around upstairs without bumping your head, so the roof getting damaged gave us the opportunity to open it up and to create more height.'

When it came to planning the ground-floor layout, the couple originally wanted an open-plan kitchen-diner, 'or at least a counter or island dividing the two areas,' says Odetta. 'However, we decided against that idea when we realised we'd have to sacrifice four wall cabinets and a fridge

freezer in the process. Sometimes you're forced to compromise on your preferred design due to room size and specific requirements. Though I think having three separate spaces for the kitchen, dining room and sitting room still works well.'

Odetta chose traditional farmhouse furnishings and natural tones and materials to accentuate the rustic aspect of the barn. Terracotta flooring laid on the ground-floor level influenced the colour scheme upstairs, too. The freestanding bath has been painted in a similar shade, and matching inset floor tiles form an elegant Victorian look. In the bedroom, cream walls, rust-coloured bedlinen and underfloor heating create a cosy feel, while smaller details, such as lighting, switches and sockets were selected just as carefully. 'These things finish off a property so nicely,' says Odetta.

'We feel very fortunate to have found this barn, and it was the best decision we ever made to move to the countryside,' concludes Richard. 'Now we realise what we've been missing out on all these years.'





#### HALL

The proportions of this galleried space create a grand entrance. Arcadia large statement mirror, £199, Oka. Just Bees in Dove curtain fabric, £49.95m, Peony & Sage

# SIZING UP

*A handsome former grain store provided Claire and Ed O'Neill with the space they craved for their large family gatherings*

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



#### SITTING ROOM

The coffee table incorporates an ottoman that serves as an extra seat when needed.

Lennox coffee table and ottoman, £2,360, Rendall & Wright. Clover mirror, £490; set of 12 bird paintings, £249; Fontana side table, £625; Juno urn table lamps, £235 each, all Oka

Claire and Ed O'Neill instantly fell in love with the architectural details of their former grain store in Norfolk. 'The features are beautiful,' says Claire, 'and the garden, which had been well kept by the last owners, was another big draw.'

The O'Neills purchased the property after all the family holidays they had enjoyed in the area with their daughters, Ivy, 7, and Ruby, 4. 'It's ideal for the kids,' says Claire, 'as there are beaches, country walks and stately homes.' As the couple both have large families and many friends, Claire was keen to find a house that could host large gatherings. With its

games room, guest annexe and garden, this property offered the space they yearned for. The biggest challenge, however, was to make it feel intimate. 'Large rooms mean that small pieces of furniture can look lost,' she says.

Interior designer Lindsey Rendall initially helped with curtains and blinds, but they soon realised that her expertise was invaluable for sourcing furniture, too. 'Lindsey was brilliant at helping me find items to get the harmonious look I was after,' says Claire. It was a painted kitchen wall clock in a soft eau de nil shade that set the ball rolling for a colour scheme for the furnishings. 'I really gravitated to this hue and

#### INSPIRING



#### HOME TRUTHS

##### THE PROPERTY

Converted grain store, built in 1898

**LOCATION** Norfolk

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, playroom, games room, four bedrooms (three en suite), dressing room, bathroom, two-bed annexe with bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2013

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We also have a house in east London,' says Claire.



#### KITCHEN-DINER

This large open-place space has all the mod-cons but is still sympathetic to the barn's original features. Reigham duck egg wall clock, £38, [TickTockClocks.co.uk](http://TickTockClocks.co.uk). For blue Le Creuset cookware try John Lewis, from £99

#### I DINING AREA

Leather seats and a dark table provide a formal contrast to the relaxing armchairs.

Umbrian table in dark oak, £2,745; Umbrian bench, £985; Buffalo side chair, £295, all Heal's. Jethou armchair, from £510, [Sofa.com](http://Sofa.com)

#### 2 KITCHEN

An island makes this space easy to use.

Tara Beech units, price on request, Anthony Edwards. Franklite Vetross ceiling pendant in silver, £272, [Ocean Lighting](http://OceanLighting), is similar

felt it worked really well in the house.' Lindsey built on this idea by picking out some of the subtle shades in the exposed flint stone walls, including pale aqua, duck-egg blue and muted tones of grey. The palette provides a gentle contrast to the orange tones of the walls, helping the interior flow into the garden.

Carefully chosen accessories make the large spaces feel cosier. For example, in the sitting room, a striking rug helps to anchor the seating

arrangement, while textures such as velvet, linen and wool add warmth to the scheme. For the impressive galleried hall, Lindsey suggested creating a seating area overlooking the outdoor space. 'It helps connect the space with both the garden and kitchen, which is where we spend a lot of our time,' says Claire.

The granite-topped beech kitchen units and the polished stone floor had been installed when the barn was converted by the previous





owners, so Claire and Ed simply swapped the Aga for a more economical electric version. They also added a chunky wooden table and benches for when they host dinner parties. The master bedroom was another spacious area that needed softening, and Lindsey suggested the cocooning shapes of a winged bed and chair, which is upholstered in a rich teal-coloured velvet. 'The interiors are elegant

without being too much of a design statement,' explains Claire. 'We didn't want to create a scheme that would date in 10 years' time.'

Claire's best memory of the home so far is the birthday party they held for their daughter Ruby, when the whole family descended on the barn. 'All the children were here, and the table was packed,' she says. 'Get together like that were exactly the reason we bought this place.'

### 3 BATHROOM

**A hide-covered chair marries well with the textures of natural stone tiles.**

Walnut tumbled travertine mosaics, £85.46sq m; Sparta honed filled travertine tiles, £34.99sq m, both Mandarin Stone, would work well in this scheme

### 4 GUEST BEDROOM

**Blues hues create a calming ambience.**

Darcy king-size bed, £875, Loaf. Trevano window mirror in cream, £185, Oka



### MASTER BEDROOM

**The windows in this room are quite small, so interior designer Lindsey Rendall suggested blinds to allow as much light in as possible.**

Angelica bed, £950; Valentin storage bench, from £410, both Sofa.com. Elsa Wing chair in turquoise velvet, £1,095; matching footstool, £398, both Graham and Green



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

200-year-old farm shed, extended and converted in 2008

**LOCATION** Brittany, France

**ROOMS** Kitchen-diner/sitting room, bedroom, shower room

**PURCHASED** 2007

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We also have a 200-year-old cottage next door,' says Liz.

# TRUE ROMANCE

*Liz O'Brien upcycled a tiny farm shed into an idyllic, warm retreat for her and her husband*

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY



### KITCHEN

**Adding a simple curtain rather than cupboard doors creates rustic charm and keeps costs down.**

The reclaimed wood heart wall shelf by The Orchard would work here, £120, [Notonthehighstreet.com](http://Notonthehighstreet.com). The Toscana large wooden clock is a good match, £70, [Maisons du Monde](http://Maisons du Monde)

Some of us might have dabbled with making over a find from a junk shop, but how many of us would have the courage and imagination to upcycle an entire home? But Brittany-based farmer's wife Liz O'Brien is definitely a lady who dares. 'All my husband Korenta and I had was an old shed, some ancient farm equipment and a field full of hemp,' she says. 'We thought, what kind of home could we make?'

An answer hit her like a lightning bolt – a pretty cottage full of romance and character. 'The shed was very small but I just knew

it had potential if we extended it a little,' recalls Liz. 'We didn't have a huge budget so we mostly had to use what was lying around the farm, but that has meant we've created something very special.'

Inside, the walls of the original structure were insulated and finished with layers of a hemp and lime mix. 'It's coarse at the start, so you can throw it at the wall,' says Liz who, with Korenta, was more than happy to get stuck into the messy work. 'But as the layers build up, it gets finer, and you apply it more gently.' The final layer of lime was tinted with natural pigments

#### SITTING AREA

Liz created the illusion of a chimney breast with a fire surround and mirror above.

Jøtul F3 woodburning stove in Ivory, £1,985, Fireside Store. Find similar rattan armchairs, £208 each, at Woodpecker Interiors. Tom Tailor soft rug in Fuchsia, £129, Modern Rugs





### BEDROOM

A pink, white and cream palette creates a pretty scheme while the curved ceiling adds height. Cinder Rose estate emulsion is a similar wall colour, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. To make a floral bedspread like this try the Constance Multi fabric, £65m, Cabbages and Roses. Jasmijn velvet cushions in raspberry, £13 each, Dunelm



**DESIGN TIP** *'I laid terracotta brick flooring, but made sure to add underfloor heating, too – there's nothing worse than stepping out of bed onto a cold floor'*

to offer soft hues of pink and cream in the bedroom and bathroom. 'Painting over the top of it would impact on the texture and the material's breathability,' says Liz.

In the new extension, where the couple created an open-plan sitting room/kitchen-diner, the walls are a mix of 200-year-old stone, smooth plaster over new brick exterior walls, and timber for the partition wall, all painted a chalky white to unify the space.

'The two sections of the cottage have quite unique ambiances,' says Liz, 'which we've emphasised with different ceiling shapes.' In the original

part, the couple built an arched ceiling to give it the feel of a train carriage. The living area, on the other hand, has a steeply sloped roof, which provides extra head height around the stove, but as it angles down towards the large window, the eye is drawn to the ever-changing view outside.

'I like everything about the cottage,' says Liz. 'We love the building, both the old and new parts. It may be small but it's incredibly homely, and during the winter, we're never happier than when we're snuggled up in front of the fire, watching it crackle while sipping a glass of mulled wine.'



### BATHROOM

Modern fittings look sleek against the rough hemp walls.

The Godmorgon/Odensvik wash stand is a match, from £200; Dalskar tap, £50, both Ikea

**DINING AREA**

A previously dark and unused area has been completely reinvented.

Pine-topped table, £230, Pine Farmhouse Table, is identical to this one. Kroby double-pendant lamp, £29, Ikea. Ashton folding chair, £145, Jo Alexander, is similar

**INSPIRING****HOME TRUTHS****THE PROPERTY**

A 19th-century terraced cottage

**LOCATION** Cornwall

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner/studio, workshop, two bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2012  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before moving here, I lived in an Edwardian house not far away,' says Sally.

# CLEVERLY CRAFTED

*Armed with a paintbrush, artist Sally MacCabe worked a little magic on her bijou cottage*

FEATURE PAT GARRATT | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES

## SITTING ROOM

The sofa arrangement makes this a wonderfully social space.

The Dali two-seater sofa, from £1,889, Sofa Workshop, is similar. The bronze Alisa table lamp, £15, John Lewis, would suit this look



INSPIRATION *'I love rummaging round local junk shops and collecting ephemera –*



## STUDIO

This bright space is the perfect place to work.

For details on Sally's mixed-media classes, visit [sallymaccabe.co.uk](http://sallymaccabe.co.uk). Edgar solid-pine chair, £90 (unpainted), Wayfair, is similar to this one

Sally MacCabe is an intuitive type of person, so when she saw a photo of a pretty terraced cottage in the local paper, she instantly knew it was the one for her. 'It jumped out at me and I felt as if it was meant to be,' she says.

Sally had been house hunting for a small property that offered her security, independence and enough space to pursue her mixed-media work in the coastal town of St Ives in Cornwall. 'I walked in the front door and knew I could happily live there,' she recalls. 'The interior had been freshly painted white and

looked like a little art gallery.' Perched high on a hill overlooking the town and the sea, the cottage had plenty of potential to extend at the back, and the best part was the sheltered, south-facing garden.

Before making any major changes, Sally decided to live with the existing layout for a while, but she couldn't resist decorating the kitchen. 'It was very bland with blonde-wood units and not to my taste,' she says. 'So I painted them, along with the wall tiles and my old pine furniture.' Similarly, the bathroom, which she plans to replace when funds allow, was

**KITCHEN**

'I painted spots on my new fridge to match the cabinetry,' says Sally. Calluna estate eggshell, £53 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a similar paint shade

**WORKSHOP**

The room is used specifically for making jewellery. Alex drawer unit, £60, and Barometer work lamp, £27, both Ikea, are comparable

*this town is celebrated for its arts and crafts, so it's the perfect place for me'*

**BEDROOM**

Soft shades of grey create a calming feel. Weathered Walls painting by Sally MacCabe, price on request. Alvine Kvist duvet cover and pillowcase set, £30, Ikea. Try the Bush Retro FM radio, £24.99, Argos

treated to a few coats of paint. 'I love grey-blue shades,' says Sally. 'I use them a lot in my artwork and even my clothes tend to be those colours, which my grown-up children tease me about. The cat's grey as well!'

After a year of deliberation, Sally decided to create a dining area off the kitchen in what used to be a small rear courtyard. 'It was a crude space with a corrugated plastic roof, drains, pipes and spiders,' she explains. 'There was no room anywhere in the house for a table, so not only did I have to eat off my knees but I had no space to teach students or run my workshops.' With

the help of local builders, the whole area is now open plan and, thanks to a new glazed roof, gloriously light, too. 'But old houses always produce problems,' says Sally, 'and we discovered a huge amount of rot in the studio floor, which had to be removed.'

The last job was to replace the warped front door with a new one. 'We all have stable-style doors on the terrace, which are usually kept so we can pop in for a chat when passing,' says Sally. There's such a lovely, community feel here, and I'm very fortunate to have found somewhere so perfect to live and work.' 25

**BATHROOM**

This scheme was given the grey treatment, too. The French Farmhouse rustic solid-oak rectangular wall mirror, £299, Oak Furniture Land, would suit this type of setting





# PERIOD DRAMA

*Gerry Peckett's neo-classical home has been dramatically transformed with large-scale pattern and vivid colour*

FEATURE SERENA FOKSCHANER | PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BOLTON



## SITTING ROOM

**This formal space has been dressed with bespoke fireplaces, a striking wallpaper and an elegant chandelier.** Procuratie e Scimmie Fornasetti wallpaper, £140 per roll, Cole & Son. Round Laurel mirror in Burnt Silver, £1,488; Trevoze mirror in French Brass, £1,284, both Porta Romana. For a similar chandelier try Norfolk Decorative Antiques





**DINING ROOM**  
A round table creates a warm and intimate environment in this richly decorated space. Bespoke table, Chiselwood. Flowers and wreath throughout by Vincent & Stubbs

**DISTINCTIVE**



**HOME TRUTHS**

**THE PROPERTY** Grade II listed Georgian detached

**LOCATION** Lincolnshire

**ROOMS** Hall, drawing room, dining room, open-plan kitchen/sitting room, cloakroom, five bedrooms, four bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2000

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'Before moving here, I lived in an old cottage nearby,' says Gerry.

**KITCHEN**

At Christmas, Gerry, Sophie and her partner Gianluca, and other guests gravitate to the roomy extension, where the units were designed to echo the dining room furniture.

Extension by Hardy Bros. Bespoke kitchen by Chiselwood. Slice bar stools, £90 for two, Blue Suntree, are comparable



The idyllic panorama of the Lincolnshire Wolds was what drew Gerry Peckett, a keen gardener, to her Grade II listed Georgian home. 'It was in a poor state,' explains Gerry. 'There was no flow between the rooms, which were divided up by partition walls, fireplaces were empty and the windows were boarded up.'

However, its lofty proportions, generous quantity of outbuildings and the prized view convinced Gerry that it could become a family home, albeit with serious time and effort. 'Over the last 15 years, we've opened up the rooms to make the most of the views and emphasised the neo-Classical design,' she says. Gradually, too, the interior has acquired a glamour that



#### FAMILY ROOM

**This extension is designed to look like a traditional barn conversion.**

Interior design by Sophie Peckett. Oak beams by Stuart Somerscales. Alfonse floor lamp, £1,842; shade, £281, both Porta Romana

reflects the decorating taste of Gerry's youngest daughter. Sophie, an interior designer with a love for theatrical style, has deployed colour, pattern and scale to capitalise on the property's charming architectural bones.

This Christmas, guests will gather in the recently renovated sitting room, where a dividing wall has been removed to create one large space. At either end, bespoke fireplaces inspired by the motifs of the restored cornicing have been installed, their Italianate feel echoed in a dramatic wallpaper. The striking effect is also picked up in two mirrors on the mantelpiece, eye-catchingly overlaid to provide

a reflection of the chandeliers. Sophie used matching sofas to link both areas.

Adding to the festive feel is an attractive combination of antique, bespoke and off-the-peg furniture buys. 'We moved in with very little and have gradually added and designed pieces to create a classic but contemporary feel that my mother and I both like,' says Sophie.

To counterbalance the formality of the 18th-century architecture, Gerry has added a barn-inspired extension that is separated from the dining room by floor-to-ceiling cabinetry, which houses glassware on one side and the fridge freezer on the

#### HALL

**Chic decorations create a welcoming entrance.**

Gold loop console table, £16,750, Taylor Llorente, has this look. Reindeer, £427, Woodpecker Interiors





#### MASTER BEDROOM

**Gerry's space has an elegant and theatrical air.**

For similar wallpaper try Orchard Blossom by Nina Campbell, £67 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Velvet tub chair, £445, Oliver Bonas



#### GUEST BEDROOM

**Striking prints and neutral linens continue the interior's classical, contemporary feel.**

Lotus wallpaper, £110 per 10m roll, Farrow & Ball. The Albany bed linen range from The White Company would work well in here, from £275

other. Incorporating a new kitchen and family room, and featuring a canopy of beams carved by a local craftsman, the space is the perfect spot for the towering Christmas tree. Arched windows and stone walls pair with modern furnishings for a sleek but traditional look. Upstairs in the master bedroom, a sombre walnut four-poster was repainted in a fresh off-white. 'The velvet chair in here was a bargain,' says Gerry, 'and its soft tones are perfectly picked out in the patterned wallpaper and silk quilt.'

On Christmas Day, as festive scents waft on the air and the wood-burning stove crackles, the family will gather for a celebratory drink before moving to the dining room. The space is well dressed with crystal and handpainted china, and their lunch is, as Gerry describes, 'long, jolly and full of good-humoured banter'. **25**

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# THE SOURCE

*Erica Miller shows how you can achieve the style secrets in this issue's homes*

## Design ideas



### BED CANOPY



A graceful bed canopy adds a stunning finishing touch to Philippa and Phil Heath's spacious master bedroom. Perfect for adding elegance to a simply furnished room, it also helps create a soft,

feminine feel. This effective yet fuss-free alternative to a traditional four-poster bed is also a great way to give a bedroom a focal point. The canopy is created from tab-top curtains suspended from the ceiling by a pair of wooden curtain poles, with a swathe of voile across the top. A beautifully layered bed stacked with cushions completes the luxury look. Before installing a bed canopy, try to locate the ceiling joists and align the poles across them. This ensures they will be able to take the weight of the curtains.



### PAINT POTS DISPLAY



Patsy Holdsworth has come up with an ingenious way of recycling her large collection of paint tester pots. Instead of throwing them away, she has simply lined up the tiny cans side by side in a niche

at the top of the upstairs landing wall. This creates an intriguing and attention-grabbing feature and gives the space instant character. Not only is it a clever way of highlighting an interesting architectural feature, it really helps personalise the space, too. This idea works particularly well because the actual paint tester cans, from Farrow & Ball, are attractive objects in their own right. When it comes to decorating interiors, simple yet imaginative touches like this are often the ones that work best.



### CASES SIDEBORD



A sideboard made of a variety of old cases creates an original feature in the Hughes's modern, eclectic sitting room. Repurposing or reinventing vintage pieces or heirlooms is an ongoing trend and

here, a simple but sturdy wooden frame has been tailor-made to house a random array of the couple's favourite baskets, suitcases and a wooden wine box. Other unconventional storage ideas that involve giving old pieces a new lease of life include old suitcases simply stacked one on top of the other, with the largest at the bottom to form a stylish bedside table. This idea also works well with cases stacked at the end of a bed. If required, one of them can easily be converted into a comfy bed for a cat or dog.

# Inspired shopping



Pages  
56–59

## Faux orchid

For a pretty faux-floral arrangement like Jacky Hobbs and Simon Gill's, see the Madame Butterfly silk orchid, £99, Bloom.



Pages  
87–89

## Bar pendant

A contemporary bar pendant light illuminates the Hughes's island unit. Arken 3 in raw/wood, £107, Dår Lighting, is comparable.



Pages  
126–129

## Damask wallpaper

The Gannons' wallpaper adds an unmistakable air of distinction. Try St Antoine BP 909, £110 per roll,



Pages  
52–54

## Striking rug

An attractive rug hits just the right note beneath Katie O'Brien's dining table. Get the look with this Dakota handwoven cotton rug in Sea Green, 170 x 240cm, £249, Made.



Pages  
114–116

## Glass tiles

The turquoise splashback in Niki Hudson and Graham Madigan's kitchen gives a bright pop of colour. Glassworks Colorado glass tiles, 30 x 60cm, £159.95sq m, Original Style, will work.



## Rustic chair

An old rocking chair lends a cosy farmhouse feel to the Eickholts' house. For a similar design try the Miller rocking chair, £289, Swoon Editions.



Pages  
18–24



Pages  
122–124

## Console table

The simple crossed-leg table makes a practical and stylish perfect addition to the Dohertys' sitting room. Evoke the look with this Padstow X-Brace console table in glass and metal, £165, One World Trading Company.



# Inspired shopping



Pages  
56 – 59

## Display cabinet

If you covet the simple glazed display cabinet in Jacky and Simon's dining room, then invest in this 1904 bookcase, £4,540, Grange.



Pages  
134 – 136

## Vintage tiles

Classic cream-and-black floor tiles create a period feel in Sean Keyes and Chris Phillips' bathroom. Medina black triangles floor tiles, from £50sq m, Piazza Tiles, will do the same.



Pages  
18 – 24

## Christmas soldier

A row of traditional Nutcracker soldier ornaments stand to attention on the Eickholts' mantelpiece. Take a look at the musical soldier, £19.99, Homesense.



Pages  
18 – 24

## Gold coffee table

Add a glamorous note with a gold coffee table, as the Eickholts' have done. The Baccarat marble-top design, £1,700, Luxdeco, is an option.



## Enamelled woodburner

A cream woodburning stove brings extra cosiness to Michael and Jane Findlay's sitting room. Recreate this look with the Mendip enamel stove in ivory, £1,437, Mendip Stoves.



Pages  
48 – 51



Pages  
76 – 79

## Lightweight armchair

A pair of wooden armchairs provides a rustic Scandinavian edge in the Kjeldsens' house. The Holmsel chair in green or grey, £40 each, Ikea, will create a similar effect.



# Design solutions

## CANDLELIGHT IN YOUR HOME

*Perfect for adding a sense of cosiness to any room, candles are one of the delights of the winter season*



### AMBIENT LIGHT



Pages  
26 – 31

Christmas decorating is all about creating a special atmosphere, and the Stålnerts have opted for elegant candle wall sconces in their dining room, which create mood with soft, flattering pools

of light. Candles also work beautifully when they are arranged in a group on a mantelpiece or shelf. Here a row of glass candle votives on a tray, and a couple of hurricane lamps cast a warm and inviting glow. Tealight holders wooden tray, £16.99; gold-ribbed glass bauble, £3.99; antique-look gold stag, £24.99; antiqued hurricane lantern, £12.99, all Dobbies.

### FRONT DOOR DECOR



Pages  
118 – 121

First impressions count and nothing symbolises the spirit of Christmas more than a warm welcome. Candles light up the Pesonens' front door, where a pair of ornate metal lanterns and a glass hurricane lamp set the scene. The perfect antidote to winter's dark days, the flickering flames have a luminous and mesmerising appeal. An alternative idea that epitomises Scandi simplicity is to hang a glass lantern with a candle inside on your front door. These small details make all the difference. Hanging Tealight Star, £30, The White Company.

### DINING CANDLES



Pages  
43 – 47

Dancing candle flames, particularly at a dining table, are magical. An elegant silver candelabra sits at the centre of the Heaths' table and further light is provided by a wire votive holder, while placing lights in front of the mirror amplifies the effect. The dark, dramatic scene here is counterbalanced with an assortment of candles and pretty silver ceiling-hung ornaments. Glass candelabra, £100; silver tealight holder, £6; bell jar with glitter house, £15, Scissors table, £599; Castillo chairs, £250 for two; faux-sheepskin rug, £140; faux hide, £35, all Bhs.

## 5 OF THE BEST *Bedding sets*

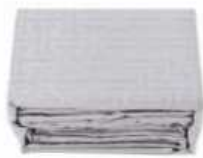
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Ted Baker Marble duvet cover, £85; two pillowcases, £35, Ashley Wilde



Artichokes purple duvet cover, £61; pillowcases, £13 each, Secret Linen Store



Kelly Hoppen Madison Jacquard six-piece duvet set in silver grey, £192, QVC



Lexington herringbone duvet cover, £179; pillowcases, from £33 each, Houseology



Sanderson Simi duvet cover, £95; Oxford pillowcases, £22 each, Wallpaper Direct



# A SHADE DIFFERENT

*A daring combination of colour and design styles has given Niki Hudson and Graham Madigan's period villa a striking one-off look*

FEATURE CLARE WALLACE | PHOTOGRAPHY LIZ PEARCE

## INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Semi-detached villa, built around 1870

**LOCATION** Brighton

**ROOMS** Hall, drawing room/home office, sitting room, kitchen-diner, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2012

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We lived in a house in a more suburban area of the city before buying this place,' says Niki.





### SITTING ROOM

Architectural features and furnishings have equal billing in this striking scheme.

Walls painted in Mercury matt emulsion, £35.50 per 2.5 litres, Fired Earth. Bespoke corner sofa, £4,395, The London Sofa Company. Indian Douppion crushed silk curtain fabric in Aqua, price on request, Pongees



### DINING AREA

Classical meets retro with great success.

French extendable dining table, £950, Three Angels. Try Vertigo Interiors for replica Eames Tulip chairs, £90 each. Dorzano tumbled limestone flooring, £69.99sq m, Fired Earth

Niki Hudson and her partner Graham Madigan specialise in architectural design, so it's no surprise that they were immediately drawn to their Brighton home. One of eight Victorian villas on the block, it is a picture of period elegance. 'Finding such a spacious house remaining as a whole, with a large south-facing garden, is rare,' says Niki. 'Best of all, it's in the centre of this vibrant city and has private parking.'

As soon as you enter the property through the floor-to-ceiling glass vestibule, you are met with a bright and spacious hall with pale wooden flooring, a chic striped stair runner and stunning artwork. But the house was just an empty shell when Niki, Graham and their

teenage daughter Bella moved in, so they were eager to make their mark.

Niki is a bold and eclectic designer who has real confidence with colour. 'We gave the house a complete makeover and redecorated using gorgeous heritage paints, which I like to use in my work,' she says. 'However, we're both a bit too impatient with a paintbrush, so we called in specialist contractors to do the work.'

The kitchen, on the lower-ground level, was upgraded with modern units, hi-tech appliances and ceiling spotlights, plus limestone flooring and underfloor heating. 'We also installed new bifold doors to open on to our lovely garden, it's a wonderful entertaining space in the warmer months,' says Niki. Following



## 25BH | VICTORIAN VILLA



### KITCHEN

This room has a fresh, open feel now. Bespoke fitted kitchen, around £25,000 including appliances, Windmill Kitchens



### HALL

Pale shades ensure a bright welcome. Antique French chandelier, around £1,200, Three Angels. Isis Rowan flat-weave runner, price on request, Roger Oates, is similar



### BATHROOM

The look in here is clean and simple.

Stardust multicoloured striped bath sheet, £25, John Lewis, has this look. Venetian mirrored wall scone, £750, Hudson Designers



### MASTER BEDROOM

A combination of bold hues, pattern and French furniture adds flamboyance and elegance.

Super-king vintage French upholstered bed, £1,595, The French Depot. Desire wallpaper in teal/gold, £22.97 per roll, Your4walls, is comparable



### GUEST BEDROOM

Colour-matching comes naturally to Niki.

Shoes wallpaper by Barbara Hulanicki, £60 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Wall painted in Boxington absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5 litres, Little Greene

**FAVOURITE ROOM** *'The dining area, which flows through from the kitchen, is versatile and very well used. It works brilliantly for family time and entertaining'*

on from the kitchen is a relaxed dining area, featuring a striking mix of antique furniture and designer seating. And tucked neatly out of sight, a generous utility room houses cleaning equipment, and offers direct access to the driveway. 'It's great, as when we come back from a large shop we can unload the car straight into the kitchen,' says Niki.

The couple have created plenty of visual interest on the floor above. In the sitting room, for instance, there are charcoal-grey walls, teal silk curtains and a bright orange modular sofa, while the drawing room-cum-home office next door boasts vibrant accessories and colourful art. 'I've

mixed together bargain finds, vintage treasures and inherited pieces, which just about sums up my style,' says Niki, who also takes a lot of inspiration from her travelling adventures. 'I much prefer items with a story, and enjoy combining sleek, modern design with iconic, eccentric or historical architecture. Then I include quirky furniture and unusual lighting styles – everything has to tell a tale.'

Situated on the first floor, is the couple's en-suite bedroom. In here, Niki has opted for a dramatic French boudoir look. 'I adore this style,' she says. 'It's romantic and cosy, and this room is easily large enough to

accommodate all of my beautiful inherited pieces, and they suit the space perfectly.' There are two further bedrooms, plus the family bathroom on this level, and Bella's retreat is on the top floor, along with another guest area.

After two long years of hard work, the Hudsons' renovation project is finally complete. So what do they think of the finished result? 'We all absolutely love living here,' says Niki. 'The house already had wonderful classical architectural features, and I think the modern and quirky personal touches we've added makes it unique and dramatic, yet still warm and homely.' 25

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INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Log-built lakeside villa

### LOCATION

Hausjärvi, Finland

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, office, three bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2007

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We also have a home in Espoo, near Helsinki,' says Merja.

# NORDIC DELIGHT

*Merja and Lauri Pesonen can't wait to host their seasonal celebrations with family and friends in their magical Finnish hideaway*

**FEATURE** JANE BOWLES/JONNA JONNA KIVILAHTI | **PHOTOGRAPHY** KRISTA KELTANEN/LIVING INSIDE



**SITTING ROOM**  
**Splashes of red lend a festive feel.**

Avignon distressed wood display case, £595, Maisons du Monde, is comparable. Sweetpea & Willow's Quentin coffee table, £650, would also suit this scheme. Lexington sells stars and stripes cushion shams from £59 each; throws from £139 each

**LAKESIDE RETREAT | 25BH**



Merja Pesonen makes no bones about the fact that Christmas is her favourite time of year. 'I'm absolutely crazy about it, and I always start my preparations several weeks beforehand,' she says. 'Yuletide is a very big celebration here in Finland, and I enjoy planning how I'm going to decorate the house and entertain my family and friends.'

Merja, her husband Lauri and their teenage daughters Iida and Riina, love celebrating the festivities at their holiday home, which is situated on the bank of a lake in Hausjärvi, an hour's

drive from their main house near Helsinki. 'I had dreamt of having a second home for holidays and weekends for years, and I really took my time over choosing the perfect place,' says Merja. 'My must-haves were that the house had to be near water and not too far from the city. I took ages browsing online and through estate agents' brochures, and was so excited to find this place, which ticked all the boxes and felt absolutely perfect.'

The Pesonens' lakeside villa is a traditional Finnish log-built house dating back to the early 1900s. 'Apparently, it was constructed using reclaimed wood from an even older property, so the original



### KITCHEN

The couple have returned warmth and charm to the oldest part of the house. Magnet's classic Shaker Cream cabinetry has this look, from £5,273 for a nine-unit scheme

wooden logs most likely date from the 19th century,' says Merja. It was extended in the 1950s to create three extra floors comprising three bedrooms and a spacious sitting room on the ground level. 'I've discovered that the house was once just a large kitchen, with a single room to the rear, which we've now turned into a home office.'

Merja and Lauri bought the property at the end of 2007, and planned to have it ready for their Christmas celebrations the following year. 'It was structurally sound, but we both agreed it needed updating,' recalls Merja. 'One of the first jobs we tackled was to strip back several layers of wallpaper in the kitchen and expose the original

logs for a more rustic feel. We also installed a shower room upstairs, although we love bathing in the lakeside sauna, too, especially at Christmas time – so much so, it's now become part of our holiday tradition.' The sitting room was repainted white to enhance the sense of light during the long winter evenings, with a few strategic areas of brickwork and timber, which adds warmth and texture, and reinforces the classic country style of the house.

With the renovation and redecorating complete, Merja turned her attention to designing the decor. 'Our home in the city is quite contemporary and minimalist, but since I enjoy hunting in flea





**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Merja's flea-market finds take pride of place in this chic setting.

Try the IB Laursen large white wooden shelf with hooks, £99, Dotty Home. Tasha Interiors' Gustavian double bed would work, £895, [Notonthehighstreet.com](http://Notonthehighstreet.com). Ian Mankin's Organic Ticking in Night, £29.50m, is a similar striped fabric

markets for vintage treasures, I decided to go for a mix of country and modern furniture for this place,' she explains. Merja softened the bare wood surfaces and white walls by selecting curtains and blinds in soft florals and sprigged cottons. She has cleverly juxtaposed these with typically Scandinavian monochrome stripes, adding splashes of scarlet as an accent colour at Yuletide.

'The season really begins when I start planning how I'm going to theme the interior for our pre-Christmas party,' says Merja. 'Although the decorations are slightly different each year, I always use plenty of red, as it's a traditional festive colour. Our drive

to the villa takes about an hour, and I can feel myself beginning to relax the minute we set off. By the time we arrive, I'm in a different frame of mind and totally de-stressed. We always hold a big party for our friends – the Finnish buffet includes carrot casseroles, a huge baked ham and salmon gravadlax, with mashed potato, rutabaga (a turnip-like vegetable) and glögi (mulled wine).

'On Christmas Eve, we head off into town to visit family,' says Merja, 'but we're always back here on the 26th, to spend time together in the lakeside home we've named *Villa Unelma*. It means "dream house", and that's exactly what it is.' 25



**GUEST BEDROOM**  
Old furniture was revived with a fresh coat of paint. Annie's Sloan's Provence chalk paint, £18.99 per litre, is a similar blue shade



**GIRLS' BEDROOM**  
A vintage desk is a stylish spot for doing homework. Ektorp armchair, £195, Ikea. Little Greene's Welcome Pale absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5 litres, is a good match for the pink wall paint





#### SITTING ROOM Traditional furnishings give this space an elegant air.

Laura Ashley's Embleton upholstered sofa, from £1,300, is similar; the Elliott footstool in Luxford Stripe Amethyst fabric, from £400, is a good option, too. Pale grey pinstripe throw, £78, Natural Calico

# TIME TRAVELLERS

*Swapping their new-build home for a much older property threw up some interesting design challenges for Lynne and Hugh Doherty*

FEATURE MANDI MILLAR | PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY MORRISON



Lynne Doherty admits that it wasn't love at first sight when she viewed the property that was to become her much-loved family home. 'The house was in need of major TLC and had obviously been neglected for some time, so there's no way I could say I fell for its looks,' she says. 'But me and my husband Hugh knew the area well – it's great for schools for our children Katie, 15, and Madeline, 10, and we both liked its tree-lined avenue. At first we were outbid, but the house came up for sale again and this time we were determined to get it.'

Moving from a modern home a few miles away, the couple wanted to make the most of this older property. 'It had lots of period details, including picture rails and open fireplaces, but the proportions of the rooms just didn't fit with how we live as a family,' explains Lynne. 'We wanted to extend but had to be sure we got everything just right, both for us and the house itself, so we weren't in any hurry.'

The Edwardian semi was perfectly liveable while Lynne and Hugh worked out which rooms were sunny in the morning and

### DINING AREA

'Hugh framed a map of the world and our friends liked it so much, he made some for them, too,' says Lynne. Try the Willis & Gambier Keep dining table, £599, and Henry dining chair, £175, both John Lewis. Boda pendant light, £112, Lightsonlightsoff.co.uk, has this look



**DECORATING TIP** *'Decide where your dining table is going and hang statement lighting above it. It creates a wonderful focal point as well being a practical addition to the room'*

### INSPIRING



### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Extended semi-detached Edwardian house  
**LOCATION** East Belfast  
**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, study, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom  
**PURCHASED** 2004  
**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'Before moving here, we lived in a new-build nearby,' says Lynne.

### KITCHEN

'This spacious new room is a great place for the kids and their friends to hang out in,' says Lynne. Bespoke units, £21,000, Lonsdale Kitchens. Try the vintage leather armchair, £995, Rose and Grey. 'Home' cushion, £12, B&Q





### MASTER BEDROOM

**Layered bedlinen looks luxurious.**

The Oyster velvet throw, £250, Cox & Cox, is a good alternative. White square shams, £45 each, Natural Calico.

Walls painted in Just Walnut matt emulsion, £21.29 per 2.5 litres, Dulux



### BATHROOM

**Green accents add freshness.**

Bath towel, £17, Bhs. The vintage black Amish tin star is a match, £39.95, Notonthehighstreet.com



### MADELINE'S BEDROOM

**'I had fun styling this room,' says Lynne.**

The Julian Bowen Victoria bed in white, £140, Furniture 123, is near identical. Take a look at the Esther bedding set, £45, Bhs

**DECORATING TIP** *'Always pay careful attention to the finish – the devil is in the detail so make sure that things like paintwork and tiling are perfect'*

in the evening, and how best to divide or open up the space. Three years later, they finally came up with an ideal layout. Downstairs would feature a spacious kitchen-diner as the focal point of their home, a separate family snug and a more formal sitting room. And as none of the three existing bedrooms upstairs was big enough for the master suite Lynne had in mind, they opted to have a double-height rear extension built across the back of the house, which would help accommodate all their requirements. 'The extension now houses our en-suite bedroom and a fourth bedroom, and joining the bathroom and toilet together freed up space for a study,' explains Lynne.

During the five-month renovation, the family remained in the property, only moving out for a short while when the back of the house was being torn down. 'We used a local builder who had just completed work on a relative's home, says Lynne, 'and he managed the entire project. He also removed the uPVC porch at the front

of the house to reinstate the Edwardian look, and sandblasted the exterior brickwork, too,' she adds. Only after the dust had settled was Lynne able to start turning the house into a home.

'My style is classic and I don't like anything too faddy,' she says. 'Good design never dates so if you invest in a classic look – whether contemporary or period – it can only add to your home. In terms of colour, I like relatively muted shades and if you borrow from a natural palette you can't really go wrong. I love the relaxing taupes in the bedroom, while the pops of purple and burnt sienna in the sitting room and snug add colour and a cosy feel.'

Despite not being convinced about the house when she first saw it, Lynne is now its biggest fan. 'It's said that you should buy the worst house on the best street, and we certainly did that,' she reflects. 'But it's more than lived up to our expectations and I think we've turned it into a very special place.' 🏡

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# PASTURES NEW

*Moving from the capital to a charming manor house in the countryside presented Carole and Jim Gannon with a welcome set of challenges*

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

**1 PORCH**

**Matching accessories provide perfect balance. The bust is of the couple's daughter Araminta.**

Wall painted in Light Blue estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Dalmore wooden lamp base, £115; paired with Ivory Ribbon shade, £29, both India Jane, would work

**2 STAIRCASE**

**A Victorian addition, the sweeping**

**stairs make a grand statement.**

The Draycot lantern, £445, Oka, has this look. Scaramanga is excellent for sourcing vintage suitcases like these ones, from £75 each

**3 HALL**

**Filled with colourful rugs and weathered wood, the entrance offers a warm welcome.**

Oak console, £950; tall grey metal lamp, £85, both Blue Isle. The

Rug Seller has comparable carpets, priced from around £200

**4 DRAWING ROOM**

**Carole designed the sofas and she refreshes the look seasonally with different-coloured cushions.**

Buttoned classic linen sofa, £995; large circular weathered-oak mirror, £399; Hoxton reclaimed wood-and-metal coffee table, £599, all Blue Isle. Cushions, from £72, Jan Constantine

**INSPIRING****HOME TRUTHS****THE PROPERTY**

Regency-style house, built in 1840

**LOCATION** New Forest

**ROOMS** Hall, drawing room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, laundry room, six bedrooms (two en suite), two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2007

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We moved from a terraced house in southwest London,' says Carole.

4



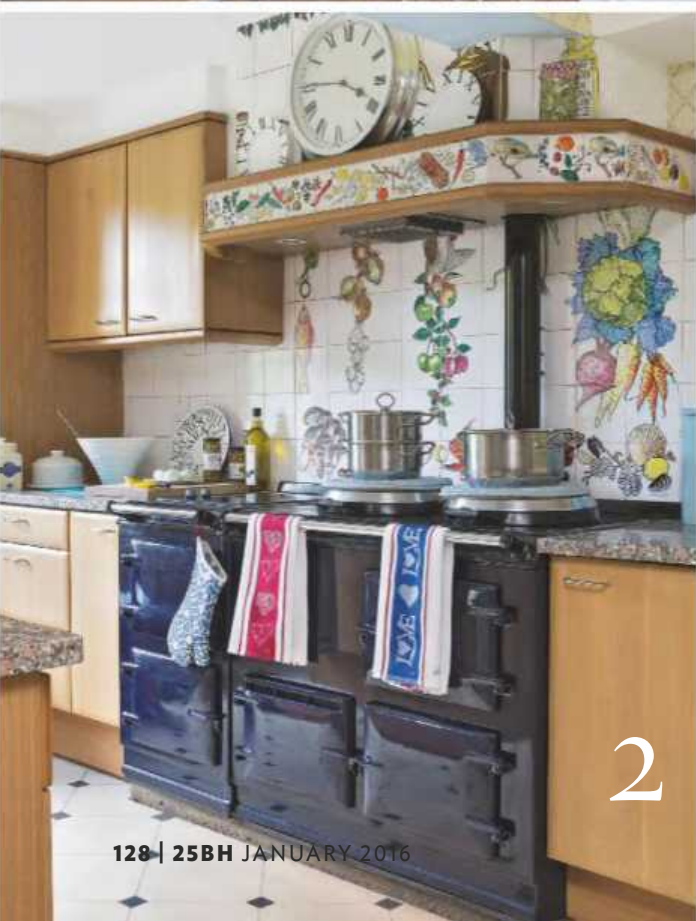
Carole Gannon and her husband Jim were looking for a new adventure as they approached semi-retirement nine years ago. So they decided to swap their terraced house in London for a rural life, and scoured property ads for interesting boltholes up and down the country. It wasn't long before they found a potential home. 'The New Forest location is what sold it to us,' says Carole. 'The forest isn't all trees; its wild heath is beautiful and unspoilt. We fell in love with the area before we'd even seen the house.'

Built in 1840, the large, detached house the couple bought is equally as impressive as its setting, with its elegant Regency-style

façade and breathtaking views across a valley of trees and fields stretching into the distant hills. Perfectly situated in 40 acres of its own farmland, the rooms range from grand proportions to snug, low-ceilinged nooks. However, as it was seemingly last decorated in the 1980s, the place had a sense of faded grandeur, and while Carole and Jim were keen to preserve its charm and atmosphere, they also wanted to undertake a gentle update and incorporate their own personalities into the place. 'You could see that it had been thoughtfully refurbished with top-quality materials, but 30 years on, various elements looked rather tired and worn,' explains

## INSPIRATION

*'A combination of weathered oak and simple lines is the style of furniture we like best. It's the perfect fusion of contemporary and traditional designs'*



### 1 DINING ROOM

**A large window keeps things bright and its inviting built-in seat overlooks the garden.**

Reclaimed elm trestle table desk, £420, Blue Isle. The Duck Egg range of Celadon glazed stoneware, £16 for a dinner plate, Oka. Adventino sells palm tree candlesticks, £34.95 each

### 2 KITCHEN

**Carole opted for a more rustic look in here. 'I love the 1960s splashback tiles,' she says. 'They have retained their colour and kitsch over the years.'**

Four-oven Aga, £10,000. Love and Romany jacquard waffle tea towels, £7 each, Jan Constantine

Carole. 'Fortunately, though, some of the classic wallpapers still appeared to be in good shape, so we decided to keep them.'

Gradually, Carole transformed the property, creating a pared-back contemporary take on the English country house. 'I started by modernising the bathrooms, because as a building surveyor, I love dealing with the nuts and bolts,' she says. Elsewhere, old carpets were removed, revealing original wooden floorboards, and new woodburning stoves were installed in both the sitting and drawing rooms. As well as retaining some of the wallpapers, Carole was also keen that the pretty splashback tiles in the kitchen remain in place. Finally, new paintwork brought the house up to date, and with her trips to local auctions, the rooms began to fill with characterful pieces.

'Jim and I both enjoy going to auctions together,' says Carole. 'He's more interested in things like old cider-making equipment, lawnmowers and agricultural implements, while I like unusual

3



### 3 ARAMINTA'S BEDROOM

**The wooden four-poster adds an exotic touch and is one of Carole's most treasured pieces.**

Weathered oak and linen French-style four-poster king-size bed, £1,250; Melbury bedside drawers, £330, both Blue Isle

### 4 BATHROOM

**Bold feature wallpaper lends a period feel to this elegant space. 'I painted the wood panels in the same shade,' says Carole.**

St Antoine wallpaper, £110 per roll, Farrow & Ball. Panelling painted in Rolling Fog Dark intelligent eggshell, £53 per 2.5 litres, Little Greene

4



pieces such as decorative china, silverware and vintage medicine bottles. I also enjoy salvaging old wooden furniture.' These are paired with colourful rugs, cushions and curtains, and simple contemporary pieces. 'Weathered oak goes well with antique, painted and modern items, as well as blending with most colours,' adds Carole. It was the failure to find a suitable bed for her grown-up daughter Araminta's room that was the catalyst for starting Blue Isle, Carole's furniture, lighting and accessories business, offering personally sourced and handcrafted pieces. And because Carole likes to try out everything for herself, she says, 'the house often feels like an ever-changing stage set.'

Due to other commitments, such as making honey from newly installed beehives, jam and chutney from the garden's fruit trees, distilling cider, and looking after chickens, the house is an ongoing project. 'We're very busy,' says Carole. 'But we love the fact that country life is never dull and we are so glad we made this move.' 25

# SHOW STOPPER

*Having their own interiors business means the scenery in Kim and Nick Smith's house never stays the same for long*

FEATURE ANNA TOBIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

**SITTING ROOM**  
This space is in a constant state of flux, which keeps it fresh and dynamic.

Woodstock patchwork sofa, £680; armchair, £540; plane propellor, £120, all Smithers of Stamford. Coastal weave rug in Camel, from £110, John Lewis, is similar





UNIQUE

## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Detached 18th-century farmhouse

**LOCATION** Lincolnshire

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, family room, office, utility room, two cloakrooms, conservatory, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2013

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We used to live in a new-build house close by,' says Kim. 'You couldn't get more of a contrast!'

**K**im and Nick Smith have always shared a passion for classic vintage and retro design, and started homewares company Smithers of Stamford about two years ago. 'We initially ran it from the front room of our old home a few miles away from where we live now, but we quickly began to run out of space to store everything,' says Kim. 'Plus the treasures Nick sourced looked out of context in our new-build house when we photographed them for our website.'

So the couple were keen to find a property more in keeping with their style preferences and also with additional outside space for their children, Maisie, 6, and Teddie, 2, plus dogs Snoop and Alf. Once they started house hunting, it didn't take long to find exactly what they were looking for. 'We both fell in love with this rambling farmhouse as soon as we set eyes on it,' recalls Kim. 'It looked so picturesque



## DINING ROOM

Farmhouse furniture complements the area's striking rustic features.

Dining table and six chairs, £876, Smithers of Stamford. The large recycled clear glass vase, £8, Tesco Direct, is near-identical



## KITCHEN

For practical reasons, the couple chose a clean and classic design for this room.

The Cooke & Lewis Carisbrook kitchen has this look, from £2,253 for eight units, B&Q. Augusto Art stool, £166, Smithers of Stamford



### OFFICE

**Nick's favourite pieces create an ideal working environment.**

BoomBox The Raver suitcase speaker, £400; tripod clock fan, £199, both Smithers of Stamford



### MAISEE'S BEDROOM

**The desk can be pushed back under the bed when not in use to create more playing space.**

The Compton white cabin station, £525, Next, is a similar bed. Butterfly wall art, from £10, Etsy. Take a look at the female vintage tailor's dummy, £44, Direct Shop Fittings

from the outside and the interior was full of bright rooms crammed with period features, including flagstone flooring, huge fireplaces and even an ancient bread oven. The building was in pretty good condition, too, and the only alterations that needed to be done were cosmetic.'

First the couple installed in a new kitchen and redecorated throughout. 'Fortunately, Nick is very handy and his dad is a builder, so between the two of them they did most of the work, which saved us a lot of money,' says Kim. 'For the decor, we've stuck to a calming, neutral theme, which enhances the farmhouse's original features such as the exposed brickwork and characterful barn doors.'

Visitors to the Smiths' house have become used to seeing a different scene every time, as the home doubles up as a showroom for their stock. Furniture, lights and other quirky knick-knacks are constantly being replenished as items are sold and moved into new homes. 'We love the pieces upstairs too much to part with them,' says Kim, 'but in the sitting room, the coffee table and chairs are frequently replaced, and the kitchen bar stools and accessories often change hands, too.'

Upstairs is where Kim's more feminine side is apparent. 'There are no industrial-style pieces in our bedroom,' she says. 'Although I've steered clear of pink, I've added some pretty floral touches and there are lots of pillows and throws to give it a cosy feel. I love hiding away in there.'

While Kim heads up her own hairdressers, Nick now runs their homewares business from home, but the stock is growing and they will soon run out of space again. 'Eventually, we'll have to decide whether to move to somewhere with big outbuildings for storage, or stay and relocate the business to a separate venue,' says Kim. 'But we'll worry about that when the time comes.'



### FAMILY BATHROOM

**The ladder rack adds a fun twist.**

Canvas utility storage rack, £240, Smithers of Stamford





**MASTER BEDROOM**  
This chaise longue is the perfect spot to curl up with a book or admire the garden. Dorma Maldon throw, £59.99, Dunelm. The Gallery Lambeth mirror has this look, £99, Very



**TEDDIE'S BEDROOM**  
'Nick is a huge fan of aircrafts, so this would be his dream boyhood scheme,' says Kim. Fran Botanist bedstead, £250; Little Home Navy star curtains, from £60, both John Lewis



**DECORATING TIP** *'When it comes to styling your home, be true to yourself. Make it comfortable and liveable, and include a conversation piece in every room'*

**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Soft shades and floral bed linen create calm. Dahlia cushion, £14.99, Dunelm, is a match. Silver angel wings wall art by Parlane, £199, Maison White, is a good option

# SWEET SURPRISE

Behind its traditional façade, the home of Sean Keyes and Chris Phillips packs a punch with its striking interior

FEATURE RENÉE GREEN | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES



DISTINCTIVE

## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Semi-detached Edwardian house  
**LOCATION**

Northeast London

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room/study, kitchen, utility room, sun room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2014

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before this place, we lived in a two-bedroom Victorian terrace in east London,' says Sean.

## SITTING ROOM

'It was expensive getting the fireplaces working, as the chimneys needed repairing,' says Sean, 'but it was worth it.' Walls painted in Mono absolute matt emulsion, £37 per 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Nanimarquina Digit 2 rug, £3,953, Made in Design

**STUDY**

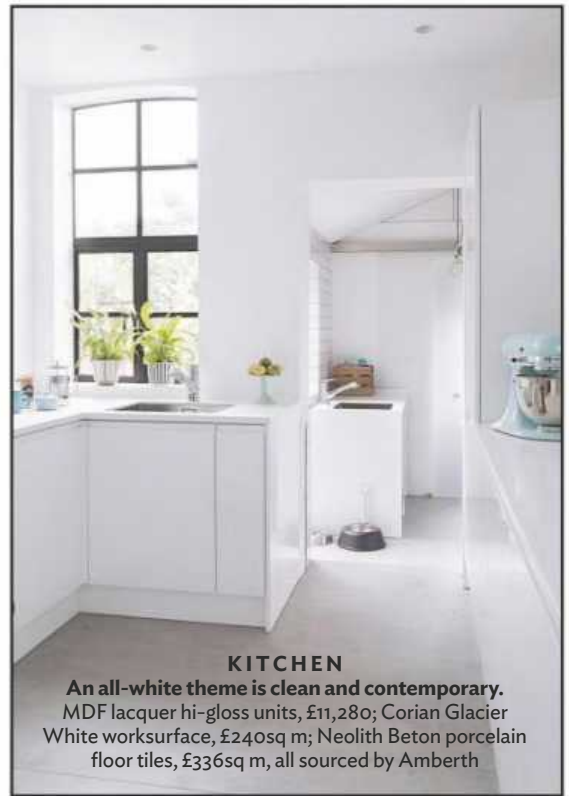
**Design classics add interest to the simple monochrome setting.**

Vitra Eames DAR dining armchair, £304, John Lewis. HAY Dot Carpet in pink magnolia, £482, Nest.co.uk. For a pendant light like this one try Louis Poulsen PH Snowball suspension, £1,351, Made In Design

**KITCHEN**

**An all-white theme is clean and contemporary.**

MDF lacquer hi-gloss units, £11,280; Corian Glacier White worksurface, £240sq m; Neolith Beton porcelain floor tiles, £336sq m, all sourced by Amberth



After enjoying more than a decade in their two-bedroom home in east London, Sean Keyes and Chris Phillips were on a mission to move. 'It was time for a change – we wanted a new project after completing all the work on our old house,' explains Sean. 'Plus we needed more living space and a bigger garden for our cockerpoos, Scooter and Banjo.'

The couple also wanted somewhere with more green space and good transport links, and after looking at various neighbourhoods, they were seduced by an area in northeast London with a village feel. 'We'd entered into sealed bids on five properties but were unsuccessful, until it proved sixth-time lucky with this place,' says Sean. 'We feel very fortunate, as this house is on a great street and is a much better choice than any of the other properties we viewed.'

One family had owned the house for 40 years and despite its dated decor, many of the original features were still in place. 'We were really lucky,' says Sean, 'with a little repair work, we were able to save the authentic cornicing and ceiling roses, plus restore the original fireplaces.' This however, was just a small part of the refurbishment the pair undertook. With the help of interiors solutions company Amberth, they initially focused on replumbing, rewiring and installing a new kitchen and two bathrooms. But the





#### MASTER BEDROOM

'We had seen and loved this curtain fabric years ago but it didn't work in our old house,' says Sean.

Blendworth Haycion Chirpy curtain fabric, £30m, Fashion Interiors. Cassina 637 Utrecht armchair, from £2,466, Skandium



#### BATHROOM

A roll-top tub and reproduction tiles create a period look.

Millbrook cast-iron bath, £956, Amberth. Norland 70 floor tiles, £205.01sq m, London Mosaic. Lefroy Brooks Metropole basin, £324; pedestal, £185, both Just Lefroy



biggest job was removing a tired lean-to porch at the rear of the house and replacing it with a striking glass extension. 'We required planning permission for this and as the house is in a conservation area, we needed consent to replace the windows, too,' says Sean. 'Our aim was to make this both a functional room and a link between the garden and the house. We bounced ideas around before settling on the Crittall/steel window combination.'

Despite early discussions to extend the kitchen and remove the wall between the dining room and kitchen, Sean and Chris decided to retain the original layout. 'We didn't want to lose the old scullery, which is now the utility room and downstairs bathroom. Plus, we had an open-plan kitchen and dining space in our old home, so wanted something different this time,' explains Sean.

The couple had fun planning the interior. 'We had a vague idea on colourways for most of the rooms,' says Sean, 'but once the walls were plastered and ready for painting, we came along one weekend, armed with loads of testers and tried everything out.' Their choices provide a modern backdrop to the period features and their large collection of Mid-Century furniture.

The pair are thrilled with the result of their hard work. 'We loved the bones of this house from the off,' says Sean, 'and now that the transformation is complete, it has exceeded our expectations.'

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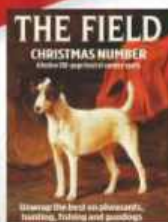
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# LUCKY FOR SOME

## DINING ROOM

'We had the chairs re-covered,' says Lisa.  
'Originally they were white but this pattern is much more practical with Myles's sticky fingers!' For similar upholstery try Ellery Furnishing fabric in red, £30sq m, John Lewis. Copenhagen table, £400, Creations. Hydrangea arrangement, £40, Next



*Lisa and Conor McCann were in the right place at the right time when it came to finding their dream home*

FEATURE MANDI MILLAR | PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY MORRISON

SITTING ROOM

The window shutters keep the look clean and simple, while also letting maximum light into this space.

Shutters, from £230sq m, Fraser Nolan Shutters. For a similar sofa try the Hyde in natural, £595, Habitat. Chairs, £600 each, Keens.

Alfred tripod lamp, £150, Made. Franklite TL870 table lamp is comparable, £84, Lights2go. Coffee table, £150, Creations.

Gaiser high-pile beige rug, £140, Ikea, would work

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**

Detached 1930s villa

**LOCATION** South Belfast

**ROOMS** Sitting room/kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2014

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before buying our family home we lived in a modern apartment, also in south Belfast,' says Lisa.



DESIGN ADVICE *'Just because you have an old house, don't feel you have to go for period decor. We opted for a cool and contemporary feel, which works really well'*



#### KITCHEN

**A variety of cabinetry finishes and colours give this scheme a relaxed, unfitted finish.**

Blue Ground estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a matching wall colour. Also try Calligaris Jam Static stools, from £191 each, Lime Modern Living

**T**he chance to live in a house before buying it doesn't come up very often, but newlyweds Lisa and Conor McCann were in that very fortunate position when it came to their Belfast home. 'We'd been living in an apartment nearby and decided to sell up and look for something bigger, which would give us room to grow,' says Lisa. 'But there wasn't anything suitable available, so we decided to rent this place while we carried on our search.'

The pair moved in a couple of weeks after first viewing the property. 'I loved it immediately but Conor wasn't so sure as it wasn't decorated to our taste,' says Lisa. 'We like a modern-classic look with pops of bold colour here and there, but as this was just meant to be a short-term arrangement, he didn't put up too much of a fight.'

Once settled in, Conor quickly came round to Lisa's thinking. 'The house is in a great location, but it was the interior layout

that I really liked,' explains Lisa. The previous owners had added a full-width extension at the back, creating a spacious open-plan area, perfect for modern living. 'We looked at a few other homes, but when the owners of this place approached us after four months and gave us first refusal to buy it, we jumped at the chance.'

With the house already feeling like home, Lisa and Conor set about putting their own stamp on it. 'The fittings were all there – the gorgeous bespoke window shutters, the sleek kitchen, the luxurious bathroom – and with a few pots of paint we made it our own,' says Lisa. 'To create a light, bright interior, we opted for a mostly neutral look, with splashes of colour for a bit of fun, such as the duck-egg blue in the kitchen, and pistachio in the bedroom.' When it came to the bathroom, however, the McCanns went for something considerably bolder. 'We weren't sure about having a black

feature wall at first, and went through a few tester pots before we finally settled on this lovely deep finish,' says Lisa.

The couple's decision to upsize was also a chance to invest in some new furniture. 'Of course we had lots of pieces from our previous apartment but it was nice to have the space to add some extra items,' says Lisa. 'We both have fairly similar tastes in furnishings – we like an uncluttered look, clean lines and contemporary classics such as the easy chairs in the sitting room, which are timeless in their design.'

With the improvements complete, Lisa, Conor and their new baby Myles couldn't be happier. 'I loved this place right from the beginning – how the space flowed and the sheer size of the ground floor,' says Lisa. 'It's a great party house and the perfect family home. We were so lucky to have the luxury of renting it first; it's just a shame you can't do that every time you move.' 25



## MASTER BEDROOM

**'Life is busy so we wanted to create a tranquil space to relax in,' says Lisa. 'I think we've managed to do that with these muted shades of mushroom and latte.'**

Padded headboard, £1,200; ottoman, £495, both Rankins.

Anglepoise Type 75 floor lamp, £184, Nunido, is similar.

Bedside lamps, £90 each, Keens. The Berkeley Collection mink quilt, from £250, The White Company, is a good option



## BATHROOM

**'Our black wall is a real talking point,' says Lisa.**

**'People think it's a bit odd until they see it.'**

Railings estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a matching shade. Byholmer wicker chests, £65 each, Ikea. See the Cypress radiator, £280, Victorian Plumbing



## GUEST BEDROOM

**This attic space offers great views over the city.**

Walls painted in Cooking Apple Green estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

# WHERE TO BUY

January's list of contact numbers and web addresses

**A Adventino** 01529 307812, adventino.co.uk  
**Aga** 0845 712 5207, agaliving.com  
**Alexander & Pearl** 020 8508 0411, alexanderandpearl.co.uk  
**Allissias Attic & Vintage French Style** allissiasattic.co.uk  
**Amazon** amazon.co.uk  
**Amberth** 020 7354 8958, amberth.co.uk  
**Annie Sloan** 01865 713089, anniesloan.com  
**Another Studio** 020 7404 9397, another-studio.com  
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**Argos** 0345 640 3030, argos.co.uk  
**Ashley Wilde** 01707 635201, ashleywildegroupp.co.uk

**B B&B Italia** 00 39 031 795213, bebitalia.com/en/  
**B&Q** 0333 014 3098, diy.com  
**Barker & Stonehouse** 0370 218 4468, barkerandstonehouse.co.uk  
**Bathstore** 0800 023 2323, bathstore.com  
**Bedroom Furniture Direct** 01989 763343, bedroomfurniture.co.uk  
**Beswickstone** 01285 885795, beswickstone.co.uk  
**Bhs** 0344 411 6000, bhs.co.uk  
**Birdie Fortescue** 01328 738634, birdiefortescue.co.uk  
**Birgit Israel** 020 7376 7255, birgitisrael.com  
**Bloom** 0844 482 2332, bloom.uk.com  
**Blue Isle** 01425 653031, blueisle.co.uk  
**Blue Suntime** 0116 267 0267, bluesuntime.co.uk  
**Brights of Nettlebed** 01491 641115, brightsofnettlebed.co.uk  
**Bump** 020 7249 7000, bumpstuff.com

**C Cabbages & Roses** 020 7352 7333, cabbagesandroses.com  
**Cargo** 0344 567 0639, cargohomeshop.com  
**Carluccio's** 020 7580 3050, carluccios.com  
**Castlegate Lights** 01642 714444, castlegatelights.co.uk  
**Cath Kidston** 0845 026 2440, cathkidston.com  
**Chaunceys Timber Flooring** 0117 971 3131, chauncey.co.uk  
**Chelsea Textiles** 020 7584 5544, chelseatextiles.com  
**Chiselwood** 01522 704446, chiselwood.co.uk  
**Cimmermann** 01423 524777, cimmermann.uk  
**Click Basin** 01772 671354, clickbasin.co.uk  
**Coach House** 01282 682666, coachhouse.com  
**Cole & Son** 020 8442 8844, cole-and-son.com

**Colony Roma** 020 7351 3232, colonyfabrics.com  
**Cotswold Natural Stone** 01993 867392, cotswoldnaturalstone.co.uk  
**Cox & Cox** 0844 858 0744, coxandcox.co.uk  
**CP Hart** 0845 600 1950, cphart.co.uk  
**Crabtree & Evelyn** crabtree-evelyn.co.uk  
**Creations** 028 9032 3197, creations-interiors.com  
**Cult Furniture** 020 8185 6960, cultfurniture.com  
**Currys** 0344 561 0000, currys.co.uk

**D Där Lighting** 01295 672200, darlighting.co.uk  
**Debenhams** 0844 800 8877, debenhams.com  
**Decorexi** 020 7354 2112, decorexi.co.uk  
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**Designers Guild** 020 7893 7400, designersguild.com  
**DFS** 0808 149 3892, dfs.co.uk  
**Direct Shop Fittings** 0845 400 1040, directshopfittings.co.uk  
**DM Lights** 00 32 15 257668, dmlights.co.uk  
**Dobbies Garden Centres** 0131 561 6406, dobbies.com  
**Dotty Home** 01395 514724, dottyhome.com  
**Dreams** 0844 225 9259, dreams.co.uk  
**Dulux** 0333 222 7171, dulux.co.uk  
**Dunelm** 0345 165 6565, dunelm.com

**E Etsy** etsy.com/uk

**F Fabrics & Papers** 01273 495500, fabricsandpapers.com  
**Farrow & Ball** 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com  
**Fashion Interiors** 024 7601 1299, fashioninteriors.co.uk  
**Feather & Black** 01243 380600, featherandblack.com  
**Fired Earth** 0845 293 8798, firedearth.com  
**Fireside Store** 01223 213500, firesidestore.co.uk  
**Fishpools** 01992 636465, fishpools.co.uk  
**Fritz Fryer** 01989 567416, fritzfryer.co.uk

**G Graham and Green** 020 8987 3700, grahamandgreen.co.uk  
**Grange** 020 7935 7000, grange-london.com

**H Habitat** 0344 499 1111, habitat.co.uk  
**Halfords** 0345 504 5353, halfords.com

**Handles & Knobs Direct** 01386 48993, handlesandknobsdirect.co.uk  
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**Heal's** 020 7896 7451, heals.co.uk  
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**Houseology** 0330 363 0330, houseology.com  
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**Indigo** 01629 581800, indigofurniture.co.uk

**J JamJar Lights** jamjarlights.com  
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**Just Lefroy** 01603 488770, just-lefroy.co.uk

**K Kate Forman** 01962 732244, kateforman.co.uk  
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**Lime Modern Living** 01892 544846, limemodernliving.co.uk

**Little Greene** 0845 880 5855, littlegreene.com  
**Loaf** 0845 468 0527, loaf.com  
**London Mosaic** 020 8699 0820, londonmosaic.com  
**Lonsdale Kitchens** 028 9065 7373, lonsdale-woodcraft.co.uk  
**Lots Road Auctions** 020 7376 6800, lotsroad.com  
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**Luxdeco** 020 3586 1536, luxdeco.com

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**O Oak Furnitureland** 0800 440 2254, oakfurnitureland.co.uk  
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**Oliver Bonas** 020 8674 0110, oliverbonas.com  
**Original Style** 01392 473004, originalstyle.com  
**Osborne & Little** 020 8812 3123, osborneandlittle.com

**P Parker** 020 3027 6892, parkerpen.com  
**Peony & Sage** 01289 388650, peonyandsage.com  
**Photowall** 020 3318 3660, photowall.co.uk  
**Piazza Tiles** 0845 257 0227, piazzatiles.com  
**Pine Farmhouse Table** 0800 046 1057, pinefarmhousetable.co.uk

**Pineland Furniture**  
01299 271143, pineland.co.uk  
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portaromana.co.uk  
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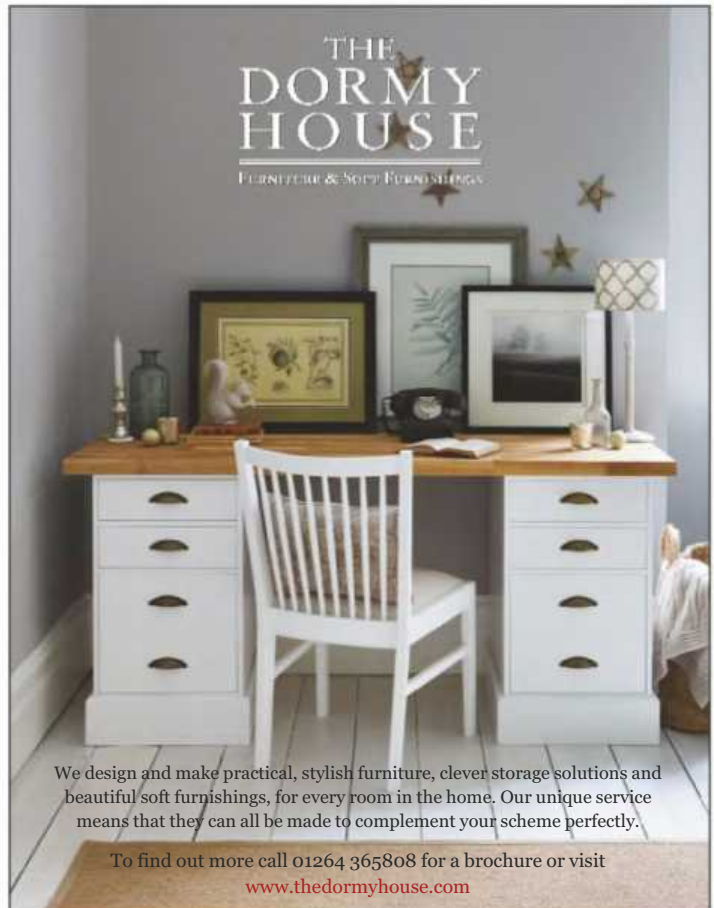
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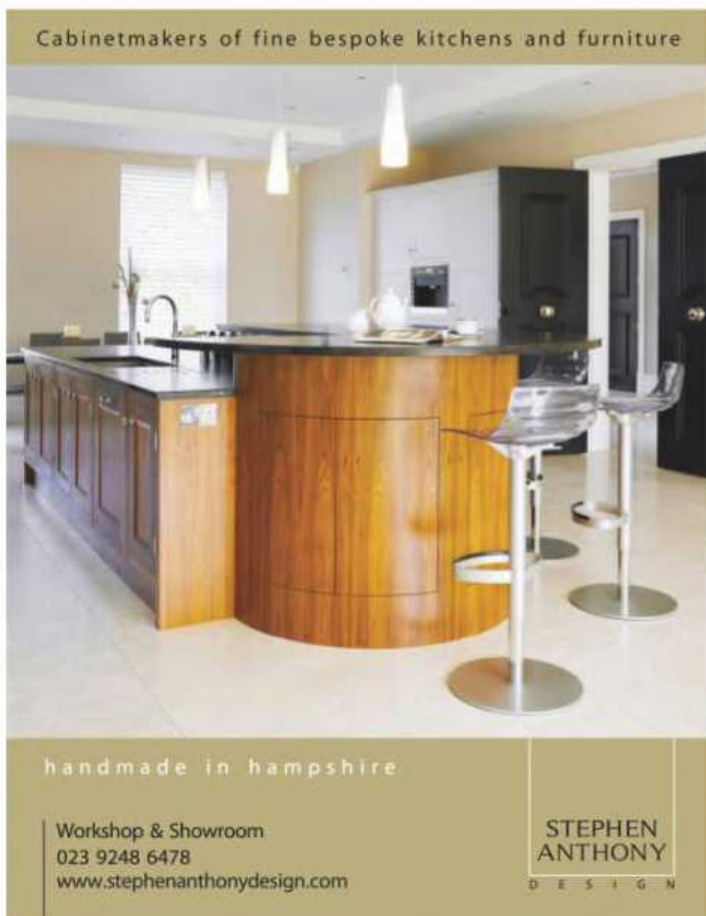
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